

Sketch

Black Rod spoils a regal party



Simon Hoggart

THE House of Lords for the State Opening... The Chamber is a riot of gilt embossments, murals, of luridly coloured furniture...

him, but only technically. The Queen arrived with Prince Charles, accompanied by a team of social workers...

In fact they were accompanied by various persons whose jobs were even sillier than their names. These included Gold Stick in Waiting, Cajo of Maintenance...

Behind them were four little boys, described on the chart as Pages of Honour. Even they were groaning under the weight of their titles...

At this point the riff-raff from the House of Commons arrives. They have been summoned by Black Rod, whom they refuse at first to admit to the Chamber...

Review

Sweet sounds of the suburbs

Garth Cartwright

The Lighthouse Family Shepherd's Bush Empire

WHILE commentators are keen to point out the spiralling success of British pop, rock and dance music in the mid-1990s, there is one area that is constantly overlooked...

leading UK tunesmiths. Tuesday's concert was their first London headliner and the audience was a broad cross-section of thirtysomething Brits...

Consummately professional, they offer feel-good music to an audience that enjoys joining in the celebration. Baiyewu sings with a clear voice that tends to drone on slower numbers...

By avoiding the tight, formulaic grooves of their album, they breathe new life into the songs. It would be easy to criticise them for being too sweet and lacking emotional depth...

I could not help but be impressed by the warm interaction between band and audience. When Lifford played the reaction is worthy of a religious event. The song's anthemic qualities, all sparkling chords and heavenly chorus...

French president's sympathetic stance includes promotion of European role in peace process

Palestinians fête Chirac

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

FRANCE'S president, Jacques Chirac, was given a hero's welcome by the Palestinians yesterday when he became the first foreign leader to address their parliament...

previous day to his tormentors: "This is a provocation. Stop this now." Yesterday, he praised President Yasser Arafat, talked of the building of a Palestinian state, condemned Jewish colonisation of the West Bank...

freedom and human rights you were for so long denied." Respect for democratic principles was an asset which earned international support and strengthened confidence among peace partners...

But, he said, confidence had deteriorated between the two sides. "France and the European Union can build confidence." France would continue to press for a political role for the EU, in keeping with its importance as a key provider of economic aid...

which took into account the rights of all parties. For good measure, he called unequivocally for Jewish settlement in the occupied territories to be stopped immediately. Mr Arafat heaped praise on his guest. "We need you and we look up to your excellency, President Chirac to help us in this critical and sensitive stage..."

of the Gaza Strip. But Israel has not yet given the Palestinians permission to operate flights from their brand new symbol of a statehood. Mr Chirac was obliged to fly by helicopter to Egypt, and join his own aircraft there.

In contrast with Tuesday's ill-tempered brawl with Israeli security men in Jerusalem's Old City, Mr Chirac was greeted by cheering crowds in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The French leader has become an instant hero to the Palestinians because of his stirring advice of the previous day to his tormentors: "This is a provocation. Stop this now."

In a clear dig at Israel's go-slow negotiating tactics, Mr Chirac said: "Each new confrontation shows the mortal danger that lies in not moving forward. I am conscious of the frustrations and the humiliations you may feel. I know the

daily suffering that you endure, but it is vital to remain cool and calm despite disappointments — to keep a level head." Pressing home his case for French and European involvement in the regional peace process, he praised the United States for playing "an essential role."

Mr Rifkind said: "It is important — whether it is France, Britain or the US — that we work together. No one in the region wants Europe to get into some competition with the US for influence. That will do little to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East."



A suitably enlarged model of the dictionary at the launch at the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall

Final chapter for £32m art project

Dan Glaister reports on the 34-volume Dictionary of Art, now on sale for £5,750

IT INCLUDES Mesopotamian temples and New Brutalism. Futurism, functionalism and the Egyptian pyramids get a look in, as does Warhol. But the question bothering art lovers yesterday at the launch of the 34-volume MacMillan Dictionary of Art — retail price £5,750 — was the whereabouts of Damien Hirst. "He doesn't have his own entry," said the editor, Jane Turner. "He's discussed in the entry on London art life. When you realise that we go back to pre-history, it's a bitp."

The dictionary has cost £32 million to produce and is expected to break even in 2007. It has 15,000 illustrations, the largest collection of images in an art publication, and its index, in a separate volume, runs to 670,000 entries. Aimed primarily at academic institutions and universities, 3,000 copies have already been sold, out of an initial print run of 6,000. All the 41,000 entries have been updated in the last six months. "Normally with a project of this scale by the time you get to Z the information on A is radically outdated," said Ms Turner. "But our information is stored electronically so we contacted our contributors and said this is your last chance. We had a flood of replies."

Kansas hosts small corner of Thatcher's England

Chapel where the former PM's father preached rebuilt on snow-bound prairie

Ian Katz in New York

LADY Thatcher revisited a piece of her childhood yesterday — at Baldwin City amid the snow-swept prairies of Kansas. The former British prime minister attended the rededication of a Victorian Methodist chapel in which her father, Alf Roberts, once used to preach.

The chapel, which stood for 132 years in the Leicestershire village of Sproxtton, was dismantled stone by stone then meticulously rebuilt on the campus of Baker University, south-west of Kansas City. Despite an unseasonal storm that had left the surrounding prairies blanketed in snow, more than 3,000 residents of nearby towns and students gathered at the tiny Methodist university to hear Lady Thatcher speak. "A small piece of England is becoming a piece of Baker University," she said. She said that she remembered her father preaching in the tiny chapel. "I remember the beauty of the church..."

peak had a congregation of more than 100, had been abandoned and had fallen into disrepair when an English professor on leave from Baker University stayed upon it. A nonagenarian Kansas philanthropist stumped up \$1 million (£650,000) to take the structure apart and ship it to Kansas in 198 sawdust-lined crates.

On the Baker campus, the crumpled re-assembled, 377-high ironstone structure, complete with stained-glass windows, ancient organ, oak pulpit and handmade pottery roof tiles. They also reinforced the chapel's structure to enable it to withstand earthquakes. Lady Thatcher's father — more famous as a grocer than as a lay minister — preached at a number of chapels in the Grantham area, where he is

"The chapel is like spiritual oxygen," she said. "If it runs low, the flame burns low"

Tories seek to bar broadcast of Willetts 'sleaze' evidence

continued from page 1 hopes to resolve on Monday, means that the committee has made little progress into how it is going to handle its investigation into Mr Hamilton and other Tory MPs who took money from Mr al-Fayed for introducing other clients of the lobbyist, Ian Greer. Sir Gordon is understood to have made a full progress report to the committee, outlining the work that will be needed, and is said to be close to choosing a QC to assist him in the investigation. Meanwhile the committee, already affected by two resignations over the cash for questions affair, is hoping to appoint two new members next week to replace Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, and Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, the former Tory chairman of the Commons members' interests committee, who resigned last week. Mr Hoyle resigned because his constituency association accepted a £500 donation towards its election fund from Mr Greer. Sir Geoffrey resigned because he was lobbied by Mr Willetts over the last inquiry. The two new people expected to replace them are Sir Archie Hamilton, the former Tory defence minister, and Ernie Rose, veteran Labour MP for Dundee West. Mr Newton argued that MPs should wait for the two extra appointments before proceeding further.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'The Guardian', 'Judge', 'Steel worker left helpless after white hot steel rod pierced skull', 'Case 1', 'Kray tw', 'Duncan Campbell', 'The Guardian', 'Judge', 'Steel worker left helpless after white hot steel rod pierced skull', 'Case 1', 'Kray tw', 'Duncan Campbell', 'The Guardian', 'Judge', 'Steel worker left helpless after white hot steel rod pierced skull', 'Case 1', 'Kray tw', 'Duncan Campbell'.

Judges reject 'cautious' estimates of projected investment returns

Massive damages slashed on appeal

Steel worker left helpless after white hot steel rod pierced skull

Case 1

Kelvin Page, 29, from Sheerness, Kent
Original award: £906,000
New award: £703,000
Cut: £203,000

KELVIN Page, who is married with a child, joined Sheerness Steel plc in 1989 after leaving the army. In court he was described as an ambitious man who worked hard, constantly looking for opportunities for promotion. In October 1991 he suffered what the appeal court judges called "as horrific an accident as it is possible to imagine".

A rod of white hot steel buckled free from a conveyor belt and hit him on the right temple. It speared his skull, causing severe burn injuries and fracturing his skull in two places.

Mr Page, who remained conscious throughout, manually pulled the bar from his head, causing severe burns to his left hand after a colleague had managed to shorten the rod by cutting through it.

The accident left Mr Page mentally damaged and he was described in court as a "helpless nobody". He suffered epileptic fits, depression, loss of taste and smell, and withdrew from friends and family. He became dependent on his wife and nine-year-old son for care and could not return to work.

Last December Mr Page received what was believed to be the highest award ever made for personal injury in an industrial accident. His former employer appealed against the award, which the trial judge based on a new approach to calculating award of damages for future losses, such as earnings.

The courts originally awarded him, among other amounts, general damages of £80,000, loss of earnings compensation of £28,000 and care costs of £491,000, including £1,000 a year for house maintenance costs, £3,000 a year for a case manager, £3,100 for a housekeeper and £6,700 for the care Mrs Page provides. The Court of Appeal cut the care provision by nearly £150,000.



Kelvin Page at the High Court yesterday, where his injuries award was cut by £203,000

Case 2

Margaret Wells, 62, from Seaford, East Sussex
Original award: £1.6 million
New award: £1.1 million
Cut: £500,000

MARGARET Wells, a part-time nurse who was described as "a healthy and happy mother and grandmother", suffered terrible injuries when she was involved in a car crash in 1992. Her skull and jaw were fractured, her spinal cord damaged and there was "severe" damage to her internal organs.

She remained in a coma for more than six months before being transferred to a long-term rehabilitation centre and then home to be looked after by her husband and family.

Despite some small improvements Mrs Wells

remains severely physically and mentally damaged and requires constant care. She does not initiate conversation, is unable to remember things for any length of time and, according to the court, "her communication lies largely in responding to simple questions or prompts".

Physically she needs constant attention and can only walk a few steps with the use of a walking frame.

The original award gave Mrs Wells £120,000 for injury pain and suffering, £21,000 towards the purchase of a new house, £21,000 for new equipment and up to £9,500 a year for therapy.

Her family say the cuts, based in part on a reassessment of her life expectancy from 10 more years to five, will mean they will run out of money. "And then what do we do?" said Mervyn Hedges, her son-in-law.

In the third case Kelvin Page, 29, from Sheerness, Kent, was awarded nearly £1 million after he was hit by a white hot metal rod which came loose from a conveyor belt at a steel factory where he worked. His award was cut by £203,000. Solicitors expect to take their cases to the House of Lords.

The cuts came after insurance companies complained that judges were being too cautious in their estimates of the return victims could expect on the lump sums they were being awarded. Victims are expected to invest their money and use the returns as well as the original sum for their care needs.

Insurance companies said judges should stick to the more usual estimate of a return of between 4 and 5 per cent rather than the new figure of 3 per cent, recommended by the Law Commission report.

Solicitors acting for the victims said their clients should have to invest only in risk-free index-linked government securities, giving lower returns, rather than equities and gilts.

But the appeal court agreed that the lower figure was overly cautious for assessing claims.

Lords Justice Hirst, Auld and Thorpe said the law had been thrown "into a melting pot" by some judges' decision to use the more generous recommendations of the Law Commission. They called for a review of the present law to prevent further confusion.

Paul Kitson, Mr Page's solicitor, said: "Victims will have to continue to gamble their awards on the stock market to ensure a sufficient income for the rest of their lives."

A spokeswoman for the Association of British Insurers said: "We are pleased with the judgment which supports the way compensation claims have been worked out in the past."

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, was granted powers under the Damages Act this year to set the rate of return courts should rely on during compensation claims. He has said he will use the power only once these test cases have completed all possible legal processes.

Crash victim will run out of money

Case 2

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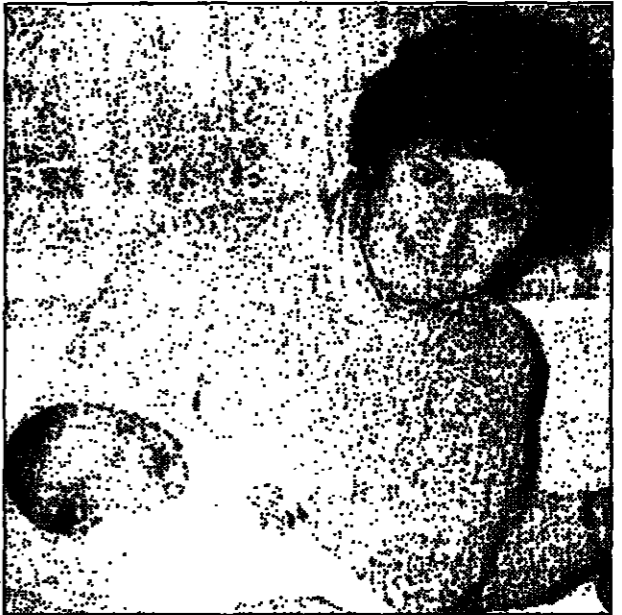
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Margaret Wells, before her life was ruined in a car crash

Hospital's birth blunder left boy too disabled to earn his own living

Case 3

James Thomas, 80, from Brighton, East Sussex
Original award: £1.28 million
New award: £985,000
Cut: £300,000

JAMES Thomas was born with cerebral palsy in June 1989 at the Royal Sussex county hospital after a drug used to induce labour was wrongly administered.

The family sued Brighton health authority for negligence. The authority accepting liability before the case came to court.

James, the family's first child, was unaffected mentally but suffers from severe physical disabilities including speech and walking problems and an inability to dress or feed himself.

The family had to buy a larger house to cope with

the equipment needed for James, saying that the additional cost was £60,000. Other costs originally awarded included £9,000 for extra laundry, £4,750 for extra heating, £20,000 for extra holiday costs, and £6,000 for the cost of modifying a vehicle.

Also included in the original award to James, who has a life expectancy of 60 years, was money he would need for future care after he had finished school.

The court said that James could reach A level standard, operate a computer and would be able to live on his own but would need support care.

He was awarded the equivalent of £20,000 a year for loss of earnings.

"Although he was determined to go as much for Paula Yates, I hope she would like a photo of her thus attired. "These I usually passed on to Jools Holland who politely answered," she writes.

Kray twins join the Internet gang

Birthday boy Reg goes online with an offer surfers cannot refuse, reports **Duncan Campbell**



IT HAD to happen. The Krays, arch exponents of the Internet. To coincide with the 63rd birthday today of surviving twin Reg, a web site has been launched which its providers trust will act as a discussion and information forum for all matters Kray.

Surfers will be able to share some of Reg's latest songs and poems, study his trenchant response to an article in the Sun by Paula Yates and some thoughts about the departed Ron.

Ms Pringuer, of Room 102 Internet Design Services, said yesterday they had been working on the site for a month and felt that Reg's birthday was an appropriate time to launch it.

It was hoped that the discussions would look at whether or not Reg should

serve the full minimum prison sentence of 30 years suggested in 1969 by the trial judge. Reg was convicted of the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie and Ron of the murder of George Cornell.

Those who visit the site, which is housed by Frontier Internet Services, will be greeted under the heading 'Settlements by some of Reg's creative work, including Walk Tall'.

This is dedicated to brother Ron and runs: *Adversity - Respect I've been there Reason I do not relent I've been there Because others have more to regret.*

The next poem up is in more optimistic vein and entitled 'Free': *My life is without cares Because I refuse*

television saying how much he liked the lemon polyester gowns she wore and how he would like a photo of her thus attired. "These I usually passed on to Jools Holland who politely answered," she writes.

Reg responds: "I read with a sense of humour the article written by Paula Yates. Were I to live on a desert island and divorcee Yates were my nearest female neighbour I would decline or resist any thought or temptation of sexual conquest or even the company of Yates. I would prefer to stay monk-like!"

But he indicates that there are no hard feelings when he signs off: "My very best to Paula Yates. I hope she has more success and happiness in the future... than she has had in the past. Thank you, God bless."

Ron, who died last year, is remembered with the words: "Ron is not with us in body. He is with us in spirit." Visitors to the site should know that it is possible to trace who has been there so the Krays would theoretically be able to see who is showing an interest.

The reason for New York Daily News reporter Lorenzo Carcaterra's reticence is simple enough: a lot of people don't believe a word of his supposedly true story. A Catholic priest says he is a fraud. The Manhattan District Attorney's office insists his story is more fiction than fact.

New York Stories, G2 page 11

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Guardian
role in peace process
Shiraz

nsas host
all corner
Thatcher
gland

seek to bar
Watts 'sleaze'

ENTS

20/10/96

Survey finds hirers rate business and vocational degrees highest, and look for applicants with 'people skills', drive and commitment

Leading firms spurn arts graduates

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE career hopes of students taking arts and humanities degrees were put in doubt yesterday by evidence that most top companies have little interest in employing them.

A survey of personnel directors in 106 leading firms showed 56 per cent favour graduates with business or vocational qualifications, and only 1 per cent would choose the holder of degree in the arts, classics or general studies if a suitable vocational graduate was available.

In a tight jobs market, with an average of 74 applicants for every graduate job, the view from the boardrooms of firms with an annual turnover averaging £1.5 billion is that they can afford to pick employees with relevant specialised knowledge and useful personal skills.

Surprisingly, the personnel directors were unimpressed by job applicants' language skills, according to the survey by Kadence, presented to the Institute of Personnel Development conference in Harrogate yesterday.

Only 2 per cent spontaneously mentioned a requirement for language skills. When they were prompted with a list of 14 competences to look for in a potential graduate recruit, they ranked ability to operate in a foreign language at the bottom.

Instead, the employers looked for a range of "people skills", headed by ability to

Job facts

- For each graduate recruited there are on average 74 applicants of which 12 make it to a first interview and 7 to a second.
- On average 8 out of 10 graduates accept a job if offered.
- Each graduate costs employers £4,600 on average to recruit.
- Employers need to invest £60,000 in each graduate before making a return.
- Graduates get 14 per cent pay rises each year on average for the first three years.
- A third of graduate recruits leave in the first three years and some firms retain only 30 per cent.

work in a team, leadership and personal initiative, business awareness, communication skills, problem solving ability and technical competence.

They said they had the most difficulty finding candidates with drive and commitment, teamwork spirit and oral communication skills.

"For too long the headline debate about the output from higher education has focused on the lack of scientists, engineers or technologists," said Simon Howard, chairman of PA Advertising, one of the recruitment specialists which commissioned the research.

That might be a problem for a few firms. "But the basic funder the education system churns out needs to be more employable for the majority of recruiters. It is all very

well exhorting the education establishment to turn out a more employable product, but higher education probably does not possess the skills itself to develop young people's core skills."

Closer partnerships between firms and universities might have to be considered. It would not be good enough for graduate employers to compare notes and compete for the same 5 per cent of top candidates. Firms had to work out the core skills they needed, target their message and stand out from the crowd, he said.

About a fifth of the companies thought women graduates were more likely to possess the necessary business and interpersonal skills, but two-fifths disagreed. A "hard core minority" of 15 per cent thought the employment prospects of some male graduates might be better.

The quality of university careers advice services was rated as poor by 63 per cent of personnel directors. Only one employer with a formal graduate recruitment scheme thought the service was very good, and only one in 10 thought it was fairly good, but few complained since firms did not pay.

The most popular answers by personnel directors asked to give advice to a 17-year-old were: go to university (23 per cent), do a specific degree for a specific career (21 per cent), do as much work experience as possible (19 per cent), be broad-minded/keep all options open (12 per cent), work as hard as possible (10 per cent).

Arts

'On graduation I thought the perfect job would come my way'

Victoria Clark

"I'M 24 — unfortunately, I'll be 25 next year and I still haven't got a proper job."

Lois Barclay, who lives with her parents in Flintshire, North Wales, has not only a politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) degree, but also a diploma in environmental economics and environmental management to offer an employer.

So far the diploma has made no difference, but at least she is applying for more jobs now than she did when she first graduated in June 1994. "I didn't make brilliant efforts back then because I didn't know what I wanted to do. I just thought the perfect job would come my way."

Her home is 11 miles from Chester, which is "certainly an encouragement to try and get a job," she said. She scours the Guardian's job pages and her university's graduate bulletin.

She is entitled to a Job-



Lois Barclay... searching for 'a proper job' armed with a diploma as well as a PPE degree

seeker's Allowance of £28 a week for as long as she can show that she is trying to find work. She has her name down with temping agencies but

no jobs have come up. She could stock supermarket shelves but will not seek a permanent job of this kind. "I'd feel so dishonest because I'd be off for inter-

views all the time." In August she took part in an "assessment" day for a traineeship in retail operations management at B&Q superstores, but they have

not contacted her since. A management traineeship with South Oxfordshire district council is her ray of hope — it would be her ideal job.



A detail from the work by Lucien Freud which cannot attract a purchase grant from the fund because it is less than 20 years old

Work of art is "too new" for Heritage Fund

Dan Glaister
Arts Correspondent

HOW old does a work of art have to be before it becomes a piece of heritage? At least 20 years, according to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The fund, which has given £26 million of lottery money to acquire works of art, turned down an application from the Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum in Kendal, Cumbria, to buy a painting by

Lucien Freud, because it is too new. Freud, widely considered one of Britain's finest living painters, was praised last week by the National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, in a speech to the Royal Society of Arts.

With the picture due to be auctioned in New York last night, the gallery had only raised £220,000 of the £780,000 asking price. Despite an extension to delay the sale, the painting seemed set to go to a private American buyer.

"The trustees set a threshold for contemporary arts that they should have been produced 20 years ago," said a spokeswoman for the fund. "That seemed a reasonable period for the significance of the work to be assessed."

But Abbot Hall director Edward King said: "Each case should be looked at on its merits. Twenty years has to be an arbitrary date. Why not 25 or 30? The irony is that the Department of National Heritage recently placed an export block on the purchase of con-

temporary art." A spokesman for the Department of National Heritage said: "There are no plans to amend the regulations. We look to the distributing bodies to come up with regulations and we are happy with what they are doing."

The gallery also approached the Arts Council which is unable to give funds to assist the purchase of works of art. A spokeswoman for the Arts Council said: "There is a gap, but these are the rules."

Science

'I went to three interviews and I was offered three jobs'

Victoria Clark

MARTIN Foster was "knee high to a grasshopper" when he decided he wanted a job in information technology, like his dad. But even he was surprised by the speed with which he moved from university into a job.

A month after graduating from York University this July with an M Eng degree in computer science and software engineering, he found himself somewhere to live in London and kitted himself out with a briefcase and smart suits before starting work with Logica, a leading computer consultancy.

He was too busy to reward himself for his 2:1 degree by taking a holiday and would have started work immediately had security procedures not delayed him.

"You see on the news and read in the papers how bad the job market is. You don't understand how well you stand out in the real world," says Foster, who is delighted with his colleagues, his office and a salary of £17,500 a year.

He started thinking about jobs a year before graduating when the big companies came on the "milk round" in search of the cream of young graduates. He picked up a few application forms but did not get



Martin Foster, delighted with job

around to sending eight of them off for another six months. By April this year, three of the best companies had already offered him jobs. "I went to three interviews and was offered three jobs — that surprised me," he says, noting that, as far as he knows, all nine students on his course have got jobs.

"There are a lot of jobs around and if you're reasonably competent you stand a good chance in this field. It's not as if there are 10 places and a thousand applicants in

this kind of work." Foster describes his university course as "excellent" because it covered a lot of ground and gave him a good idea of what the possibilities were. Although he would prefer to be involved in creating computer software — "I like building things," he says — the systems evaluation work he is doing at the moment is interesting and useful.

"It's different. I never thought I'd be doing evaluation, but I learn a lot from seeing people's mistakes."

Gun group says planned curbs on weapons are 'akin to Nazi rule'

Stuart Millar

GUN lobbyists yesterday provoked fury with claims that controls in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy are akin to Nazi rule.

The Shooters' Rights Association, which plans to stand against Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, at the general election, has circulated literature to supporters which accuses politicians of being engaged in a plot to threaten democracy by disarming the British people.

It states: "The spectre of the most pernicious and evil legislation to stalk Europe since the reign of the Third Reich is about to be forced upon the British nation.

"Some people think this will just affect pistol shooters who are dispensable. Some shooters even think that because their particular interest has been avoided, they have nothing to worry about.

"This proposed law will affect each and every citizen of this once proud country. It paves the way for the kind of government that can rule by decree by first disarming the people it is supposed to serve."

The association's secretary, Richard Law, said yesterday: "All the political parties are taking on board a gun ban. We have as much representation in Parliament as Jews had in the Reichstag."

He added: "In a democratic country we have had governments for decades who recognised minority rights. All of a sudden when white middle

class people are involved we don't have any rights."

Politicians and representatives of the Dunblane families condemned the material.

Ann Pearson, co-founder of the Snowdrop Campaign, said the paragraph was "undisputed" and the association's isolation. "The more the SRA come out with, the more irrational they are about the reasons they hold guns for. They seem to worry about protecting themselves from some unknown threat, but this only reinforces to the British public that guns should go and go now."

George Robertson, shadow Scottish secretary, who lives in Dunblane, said the references to the Third Reich were "disgraceful and beneath contempt".

Couple in £10 million forgery plot, court told

Vivek Chaudhary

ACOUPLE attempted to defraud a building society of almost £10 million using the only cheque ever stolen from the Bank of England, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Garnett, aged 54, was arrested soon after he paid the cheque into a branch of the Midland Bank when the manager became suspicious.

The court heard that Garnett claimed the cheque was handed to him at King's Cross station by someone he was unable to contact.

Brendan Finucane, prosecuting, told Middlesex Guildhall crown court in London that the cheque for £2,768,453.35 was made out to Scott and Company, a Not-

tingham based company linked to Garnett and his wife Linda, aged 52.

The cheque, which bore forged signatures, had been stolen from the Bank of England. "It is believed to be the only one that ever has been. It is an unusual situation that any cheque should disappear from there," he said.

The Garnetts, of Bermondsey, south London, deny a joint charge of conspiring with others unknown to defraud the Nationwide.

The manager became suspicious because the account to be credited had never contained more than a few thousand pounds. Garnett was arrested by officers from the Fraud Squad when he returned to the Midland Bank to collect £20,000.

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Toddler's death 'a merciful release'

Man who tortured son gets 10 years

Stuart Miller

FATHER who brutalised and tortured his baby son until the child's death was yesterday jailed for 10 years at Southampton crown court.

Judge Ian MacLean told Philip Scammell, a window cleaner, aged 28, and his former girlfriend, Jill Mills, aged 38, it was a "merciful release" when the toddler died.

Scammell, of Calmore, Hampshire, was convicted earlier this month on two charges of cruelty, which he had denied. Mills will serve six years in jail after pleading guilty to two charges of cruelty and causing grievous bodily harm.

The court heard that 21-month-old Ryan Crosssett had two broken ankles, a fractured skull and was covered in bite marks and burns when his body was found in Mills's home in the early hours of February 18 this year.

Although his death was caused by respiratory illness, post-mortem examinations revealed he had suffered appalling cruelty and neglect. The torture he had endured included being held against a boiling radiator and having a key screwed into his neck.

Scammell and the child's mother, Carol, had split up shortly before Ryan's birth. The judge said it "begged belief" how the child had been placed with his father by Hampshire social services after being taken into care when his mother could not cope. "I would like to know whether an unoccupied house,



Ryan Crosssett: post-mortem examination showed injuries

cold without heating, full of beer bottles, where men play cards, is a suitable home for a child to be placed."

As two male members of the jury which convicted Scammell wept in the public gallery, the judge told him: "No-one will ever know the truth about the way in which you brutalised that little boy. It was a merciful release when he died, because who knows what you would have thought of next."

"It is said you have feelings of remorse but no one apart from your counsel has ever seen them. Your counsel said it was one of the gravest cases he has ever seen and it is certainly one of the gravest I have. The maximum sentence is to be reserved for the gravest cases and I see no reason to part from that."

On the day before his death, Ryan had been placed on a potty when Scammell, who had a long criminal record for burglary and a conviction for assaulting a police officer, went to work at 8am and left there all day. When he returned to find the child had not used the potty, Scammell pushed a key into his neck, shouted at the child and placed him in a cold bath.

After an argument between Scammell and Mills the child was held against a radiator, then placed in a cold bath. He was put to bed where he died a short time afterwards.

When the body was found, the death was immediately treated as suspicious. A post-mortem examination revealed the toddler had died of natural causes but also showed the horrific injuries.

After the sentence, a spokesman for Hampshire social services said an independent review into the death had found no single agency was to blame, but had identified a series of shortcomings in social services and health service communications and procedures. The recommendations of an internal review were still being considered.

Detective Inspector Tom Tobin, head of Hampshire police's western child protection unit, said: "All of the officers on the child protection team are seasoned police officers, but they are also parents and found the evidence deeply disturbing. I personally found it an extremely harrowing investigation. We are pleased with the sentences given, but there are no victors in a case like this, only victims. Ryan is at the top of the list."



Philip Scammell: given maximum sentence for cruelty to son

New tests able to spot CJD 'sooner'

Tim Radford Science Editor

BRITISH scientists have found a way of identifying the rogue protein behind the new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease — first identified in March — that has struck down 14 people in Britain.

This "signature" is also seen in bovine spongiform encephalopathy — BSE, or mad cow disease — and is further support for the belief that the new human disease is caused by BSE-infected meat.

The news, revealed in Nature today, means that doctors could soon test for varieties of CJD within days. At the moment, samples of the infected tissue have to be transferred to mice which are then monitored for a year or more. Confirmation of the disease in humans has so far been possible only after death.

The new test works only with brain tissue, but John Collinge, of the Imperial College School of Medicine at St Mary's Hospital, said yesterday that within months the technique might be able to detect differing strains of CJD in lymph node and tonsil tissues. Within two years, it might be possible to detect the form of CJD by a blood test.

BSE, CJD and sheep scrapie appear to be caused by a maverick version of a protein known as a prion, which triggers a switch to the abnormal form in other proteins in the brain. Dementia appears, and death follows. CJD has always been rare in humans, occurring in the

over-60s, but the new form linked to BSE has, so far, attacked much younger victims.

Research in September suggested that infected material from 750,000 cattle may have got into the human food chain before the Government banned bovine offals in 1988 and 1990.

The guess is that if the disease gets to humans through infected meat, it could take five or 15 years for symptoms to appear.

The results from Prof Collinge's laboratory should mean scientists can distinguish between types of CJD, and help determine a cause. It also means they can look back at samples in pathology labs throughout Europe to see if the "new variant" of CJD had appeared before BSE.

"Secondly, it may be that BSE in humans has other forms — it presents in different ways than variant CJD. So far new variant CJD has been seen principally in young people," he said. "There is no particularly obvious explanation why it does not affect the elderly. One explanation could be that it does affect the elderly but it doesn't look like new CJD."

The research has another, more profound pay-off. It means researchers are beginning to learn about the protein molecule at the root of a whole suite of afflictions known as prion diseases.

"Understanding the molecular nature of this infectious agent is crucial to developing therapeutic agents — effective treatments for these diseases in the long term," he said.

Midweek lottery to offer £6m extra prize money

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

THE midweek National Lottery draw is expected to increase ticket sales by up to 30 per cent and provide an additional £6 million in prizes every week.

Camelot said yesterday the Wednesday night draw would have an estimated \$4 million jackpot.

Research has indicated 55 per cent of the population would participate.

Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, who announced the go-ahead for the second game yesterday, said: "It is a natural and timely development in the life of our National Lottery."

He brushed aside objections from churches and anti-gambling organisations, denying it would lead to excessive participation.

Camelot said it had no plans for further weekly draws, but would try to develop other ideas during its seven-year licence.

The midweek draw formed part of Camelot's original application and will be shown on BBC1, probably at 8pm.

Tim Holley, chief executive

New rules

Format and prize structure to be the same as Saturday game: players choose six numbers from 49.

Draws will take place on Wednesday nights in addition to Saturday.

New play-offs will let players specify whether they want to enter Saturday only, Wednesday only, or both.

Jackpots not won will roll over from Wednesday to Saturday for a maximum of three draws.

of Camelot said: "It will add to the fun and excitement... but most importantly help ensure our £9 billion target of funds to the good causes is met."

Camelot said it had originally planned to launch a midweek draw in spring 1996 but had held back because of stronger than expected initial sales. The new game, likely to be introduced in January or February, follows a predicted fall in annual ticket sales from £2.2 billion in the first year to £4.6 billion in 1996. The operator said £6 mil-

lion more would be available in prize money each week, with £28 million more for retailers in commission every year. There would be 250,000 more winners each week.

Mr Davis has agreed to the jackpot rolling over from Wednesdays to Saturdays, but ordered Camelot to change its plans to ensure players would be able to specify which draw they wished to take part in.

He said there was no evidence hardcore gambling would increase as a result of the change. "The mechanics of lotto games — long odds, low stakes, and the time between the draw and prize payment — do not encourage problem gambling."

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, who originally was opposed to the second draw, said: "I welcome the decision to monitor carefully the introduction of the midweek draw to ensure interests of participants are properly protected."

But Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, said: "It is premature to extend the lottery in this way until a proper assessment is made of its impact on gambling, charities and those who can ill afford to buy tickets."

Third case of refusal over sperm sample

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

DOCTORS refused a third request to inseminate a woman with sperm taken from her dying partner, it emerged yesterday.

The request was made three years ago at the Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry. The man was brain dead and doctors asked his girlfriend's permission to use his organs for transplant before switching off his life support machine.

She agreed but only on condition that doctors took a sperm sample from the man to inseminate her. The doctors consulted Midland Fertility Services in Aldridge, West Midlands, who refused the request.

Peter Bromwich, medical director of Midland Fertility Services, said: "I said we would be unable to do it. I knew that we couldn't use his

sperm without his consent." A third factor was that the couple were not married, he added.

The case is the second to emerge this week, following a High Court ruling denying Diane Blood, a 30-year-old widow from Worktop, Notts, the right to be inseminated with her dead husband's sperm.

In another case, doctors refused to take sperm from a man in a coma following a road crash, although he and his wife had been undergoing infertility treatment before he died.

The disclosures will increase pressure for a change in the law to remove the ban on use of sperm after a man's death without his written consent. Mrs Blood's MP, Joe Ashton (Lab, Bassetlaw), is seeking an adjournment debate on the issue next week.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990,

bans treatment in the UK with a man's sperm, unless husband and wife are treated together. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which enforces the act, has a discretion to allow sperm to be exported to another country, but refuses to exercise it in Mrs Blood's case.

Lord Winston, professor of fertility studies at Hammer-smith Hospital, London, said last night: "There is a serious risk that if the HFEA is seen to be taking decisions that are remote from real issues, doctors may not consult them. It would encourage doctors to avoid the law."

Lord Winston, who is backing Mrs Blood's case, said there would be nothing to stop a doctor taking testicular tissue and exporting it abroad, where sperm could be extracted later. The export of testicular tissue is not regulated by the act.

World leaders advertisement with large text and background image.

Guardian and Observer newspaper logos and contact information.

Planet Online Ltd. advertisement for the UK's largest ISDN Internet network.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'Five and comm...' and 'uater'.

Handwritten text at the top center: 'Diplo 1520'.

Stern rules and harsh punishments are the way to Islamic Utopia, writes Jonathan Steele in Kabul

Taliban aim for 'perfect society'

INCENSED by a theft, a group of Taliban took the tin of cooking oil the man had allegedly stolen from a shop, poured some into a saucepan and heated it to boiling point. Then they dipped his right hand into the bubbling liquid, took it out and severed it at the wrist with an axe.

To make sure the message was widely received, the alleged thief was paraded around the street with the stump of his mutilated arm held up for all to see.

The incident happened in Logar province, south of Kabul, last month shortly before the Taliban captured the capital. The Taliban policeman who recounted the weekend boasted that it was public punishments such as these which had helped to reduce crime dramatically in the three weeks since the Taliban took power in Kabul.

Molamma Zalmal, the newly appointed deputy commander of Kabul's police district two, was sitting across the room as the policeman described the amputation, which he had witnessed.

The district, known as Murad Khani, is roughly halfway between the Taliban headquarters in the Argh, the old presidential palace, and Kabul's central bazaar. The crowded market with its roadside stalls, teeming alleys and

People caught at adultery are likely to be tied up in separate sacks and stoned to death

In the year and a half since the ultra-fundamentalist Taliban seized the western Afghan cities of Kandahar and Herat, they have imposed tougher restrictions on women than any other Islamic country. They have denounced neighbouring states, including Iran, for being too lax in their interpretation of sharia law. Countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Turkey which have had women ministers are not true Islamic

states, according to Taliban officials. Now that they have taken Kabul, always Afghanistan's most modern city, they believe they can create a "perfect society", as Mr Zalmal put it. With the fanaticism of utopians, they claim they will form a new Islamic man who will be free of vice, and they are bringing in stern punishment immediately.

Under Afghan interpretations of sharia law, men and women caught committing adultery are likely to be tied up in separate sacks and stoned to death. "People understand that the Taliban are implementing sharia law, so there is no adultery now," Mr Zalmal asserted.

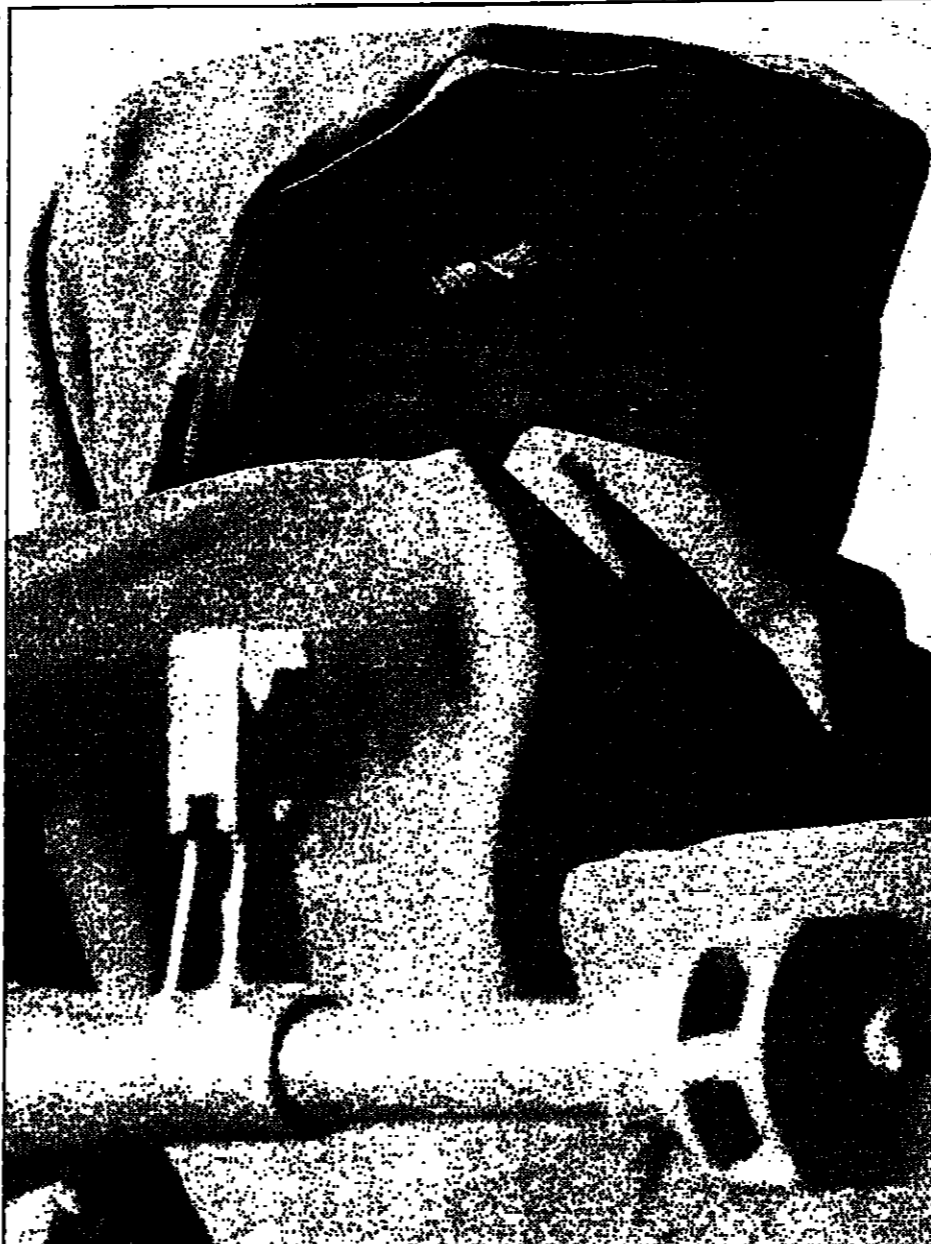
The 34-year-old deputy police commander is a mullah. He was vague about what qualifications impressed the Taliban leadership enough to give him responsibility for several hundred thousand Kabul citizens. He had never been involved in police work before. He did not attend secondary school, but studied Islam in a madrasa (religious school), he said. During the Soviet occupation he was a mujahedin commander.

The Taliban have kept Kabul's traffic police. They still direct cars and horse-drawn carts at busy crossings, kitted out in Western-style uniforms from the communist period. The rest of the police have been dismissed, except for "the few who had not committed crimes". The new fundamentalist force has no rank structure and receives no salary. "We work for God," Mr Zalmal said.

When the Najibullah government collapsed in 1992 and the mujahedin took power, they threatened to bring in a system of harsh punishment. Three rapists were hanged publicly in the first few months. Then, at the mujahedin fell out amongst themselves and reignited the civil war, law and order broke down.

Earlier this year they tried again. A wooden gallows with three ropes stands about 100 yards from the Murad Khani police station on the edge of a park and in full view of the central market. Three murderers were hanged there this spring.

But the mujahedin never enforced sharia law as fiercely as the Taliban are doing, nor did they have such chilling plans to create a "perfect society".



A Taliban gunman huddles up against the cold north of Kabul. PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LYON

Mr Zalmal said the Taliban police were actively trying to track down illegally-held weapons. Kabulis report that house-to-house searches take place in different parts of the city almost every night. The normal pattern is for the Taliban to knock each of his arms and another held up his legs. A fourth man beat the soles of his feet with a knotted wire until he lost consciousness.

He was kept in a cell until the following day when his foreign employer protested to the authorities and obtained an order for his

release. The man is still too lame to walk. His family originated from the Panjshir valley, the headquarters of Ahmed Shah Massoud, the former defence minister who is leading his forces against Kabul. Two neighbours were also detained and beaten, the man said.

The International Committee for the Red Cross put the number of people detained, beaten and released by the Taliban for similar security-related reasons at several hundred.

Afghan rivals battle for heights north of Kabul

Jeremy Wagstaff in Kabul

AFGHAN militias exchanged artillery, mortar and rocket fire yesterday, vying for the heights overlooking one of the two roads leading into Taliban-held Kabul.

Forces of the ousted Rabbani government said they had launched an assault to recapture the De Sabz pass leading into north-east Kabul, from which they retreated last month when the Taliban attacked.

"We are progressing. We have taken control of the high positions and we will soon clear the Taliban's remaining positions," a spokesman for the former defence minister Ahmed Shah Massoud said. Massoud's forces are about 30 miles north of Kabul. — Reuters.

Taliban leader Rashid Dostam, which joined Commander Massoud's front line last week, had taken part in the attack.

But there was no sign of a major advance by Cmdr Massoud or Gen Dostam on the eastern side of the plateau outside Kabul. Relaxed Taliban fighters 16 miles north of the city were watching mortar fire landing on their positions a mile away.

On the western side of the plateau it was even quieter as the two sides shelled each other's positions around a range of hills.

Taliban fighters denied they had been pushed out of their positions and said they were trying to oust Cmdr Massoud's forces from hills in the middle of the plain and retake the Bagram air base, 30 miles north of Kabul. — Reuters.

'Old Man Jesse' backs the colour card

Jonathan Freedland reports from Troy, North Carolina, on Senator Helm's claim that his rival has profited by his race

THE rightwing senator Jesse Helms turned his battle for re-election into a racial conflict yesterday, accusing his black opponent of exploiting his colour for financial gain.

Mr Helms — who once referred to blacks as "Negro hoodlums" and called Martin Luther King a pervert — claimed that the Democrat Harvey Gantt, a millionaire architect, had improperly used his minority status to win government contracts.

The Gantt campaign instantly denied the accusation, made in a 30-second television advert.

They pointed to the Helms-Gantt contest in 1990, a vicious campaign in which the Republicans ran one of the

most notorious television adverts in US political history. It showed a white man losing a job to a black candidate, simply "because of a racial quota". Mr Gantt lost by six points.

His show this year's match just as close. Two show Mr Helms leading by seven points, one places Mr Gantt narrowly ahead.

As in 1990, the North Carolina contest has attracted national attention. A coalition of blacks, women, gays and liberal pressure groups is sending money and volunteers to help slay Mr Helms, famed as the oldest dragon of the American right.

In 24 years in the senate, he has offended nearly every minority group. He referred to

homosexuals as "weak, morally sick wretches," and said people with Aids were dying because of their "deliberate, disgusting, revolting conduct".

The plotting of the race card suggests Mr Helms is far from confident he will win a fifth six-year term. Republican aides had suggested that the senator, aged 75, would run a "kinder, gentler" campaign this year, offering himself as a grandfather to the state.

But Mr Helms has kept up a relentless onslaught on his opponent, with television ads branding him as "More liberal than Bill Clinton, too liberal for North Carolina".

Almost all the attacks on Mr Gantt are on television, for Mr Helms runs a stealth campaign, making few personal appearances and deliberately failing to inform the media of his movements. He has repeatedly refused to meet Mr Gantt for a face-to-face debate.

Mr Gantt concedes that fighting a shadow candidate is tough. "He's gotten away with not campaigning and just projecting an image of what he is," he told the Guardian. "But the fact is, that image is breaking down."

As he criss-crosses the state, attending rallies and meetings, Mr Gantt is cutting a much more moderate figure than he did six years ago — when he was fatally cast as a liberal firebrand.

The result is that Mr Gantt's campaign is almost a carbon-copy of Bill Clinton's conservative positions on crime and moral issues, and accusations that his opponent threatens education, the environment and health care for the elderly — all of which won loud applause in Troy.

But beating Mr Helms will not be easy. "He's kind of an icon," admits Mr Gantt. "He's been there so long, he's kind of an institution for people."

News in brief

Sudan floods kill 100

More than 100 people have been killed and thousands made homeless by Nile floods and heavy rain in southern Sudan, a Khartoum newspaper said yesterday.

The privately-owned Alwan daily said 52 people had died in Lakes state and another 50 in Tonga province in Upper Nile state. — Reuters.

Nuclear tourism

French Polynesia plans to double pearl production and income from tourism by the year 2005 to make up for a cash shortfall after France ended nuclear testing in the South Pacific. — Reuters.

Blast victims

Separatist guerrillas detonated a car bomb yesterday in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir state, India, killing at least two people and wounding five. — Reuters.

Privacy breached

A Paris court yesterday ordered Dr Claude Gubler, physician to Francois Mitterrand, to pay 340,000 francs (£45,000) in damages to his relatives for invasion of privacy in a book disclosing details of his cancer. — Reuters.

River traffic halted

Shipping was halted on the Danube yesterday as workers tried to find the wreck of a tugboat sucked into a dam gate and sunk just south-east of Vienna. Eight people are believed drowned. — AP.

War crime charge

An Italian military prosecutor, Antonio Intelsano, said yesterday that he had sought the indictment of a second former SS officer, Karl Hass, on a charge of involvement in the same atrocity as Erich Priebke. — Reuters.

Dearest stamp

The world's most valuable postage stamp, the Freshkilling Yellow, worth \$1.2 million (£770,000), rescued by a Swedish schoolboy in 1985 from his grandmother's rubbish bin, goes on sale in Zürich next month. — Reuters.

Black marks

A year-long study into an outbreak of black spots on hundreds of Cypriot school children has discovered a cure — don't jab yourself with a pencil. — Reuters.

Junta detains Suu Kyi aide as students rally

Nicholas Cunningham-Bruce in Bangkok and AP in Rangoon

BURMA'S military government arrested a senior leader of Aung San Suu Kyi's democracy movement yesterday on suspicion of planning the largest protest by university students in years.

Several hundred Burmese students were demonstrating on a university campus in Rangoon against the detention of three fellow students by security forces, a rare public protest in a city under tight military control.

The students said their protest against police brutality was apolitical, but a senior military officer said Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy was suspected of trying to foment student unrest.

Kyi Maung, aged 75, the league's vice-chairman and one of Ms Suu Kyi's closest confidants, was taken into custody by police early yesterday for interrogation. An officer said he would be released soon. Amnesty International has called for his immediate release.

The students' three-hour demonstration at the Yangon Institute of Technology was sparked by the seizure of the three students after a row at a food stall on Sunday.

The minor incident prompted a number of precautions by the security forces in the capital, conscious that a tea shop brawl in 1988 sparked off the nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations, which were eventually crushed by the present military junta.

The students demanded a public apology from the police station involved in the incident and broadcast corrections of what they said were inaccurate official accounts of the matter on Burmese radio.

"Members of the security forces had to control the situation by taking preventive measures so as not to let the peace be spoiled," the government spokesman, rejecting the students' demands as impossible.

The junta said it arrested no one for demonstrating but accused Mr Kyi Maung and the students of attempting to ignite new unrest, mixing the affair up with politics — to make the students' work and colluding Ms Suu Kyi to try to inflame the affair.

Troops quickly replaced the crowd control barriers shutting off access to Ms Suu Kyi's home on University Avenue, Rangoon, which they had removed only on Monday night after keeping them in place for 10 days to prevent party members or the public gathering there.

Oil giant 'party to rights violations'

Paul Webster in Paris

THE Total oil company, in which the French government has a stake, was accused yesterday of condoning large-scale human rights violations in Burma, where it is building a natural-gas pipeline to Thailand.

The firm, which is 5 per cent owned by the government, said it was "scandalised" by the allegations of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) that it could be considered an accomplice in crimes against humanity by the Burmese military regime.

A FIDH report said the 400-mile pipeline, which Total is building with United States and Burmese companies, was the most important foreign-backed project in the country but had been condemned by the opposition leader and Nobel peace prizewinner Aung San Suu Kyi because it benefited the military government.

The FIDH chairman, Patrick Baudouin, said Total had become the political, moral and economic ally of a "barbaric government" responsible for the eviction of 30,000 people on the pipeline route, forced labour, summary exe-

cutions, rape and torture. FIDH alleged that Total had helped the Burmese army to repress the local Karen and Mon population by lending surveillance helicopters. It said Total's construction headquarters had become an armed camp protected by thousands of Burmese troops.

There was no immediate public government reaction to the allegations, which run against France's official policy in the United Nations where it sponsors motions condemning the Burmese regime.

Officials here pointed out that the pipeline contract was signed in 1992 but it was a long term scheme and there was no immediate financial benefit for the Burmese government.

Total denied using forced labour and said local contract workers were paid above the normal local rate. The company also said it was ready to demand visas for independent observers to check out the reports.

The involvement of the American company Unocal has been the subject of protests and calls for boycotts in the United States, but French law makes it possible to sue human rights lobbers who organise economic protests.

Democrats query gift from Gandhi's great-great nephew

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

LIKE his revered great-great-uncle Mahatma Gandhi, Yogesh Gandhi says he has no money, in fact he is in debt. If that is so, how did he manage to contribute \$325,000 (\$208,000) to the Democratic Party?

That is a question the Federal Election Commission is now investigating at the request of the Democrat national committee, which declines to return Mr Gandhi's money because, as a legal US resident, he is not barred from donating.

The money is the latest in a series of mystery donations from foreigners. The committee has already returned \$250,000 to a South Korean firm, and \$5,000 to a Los Angeles Buddhist temple.

It is also under criticism for accepting \$482,000 from an Indonesian couple connected with the \$6 billion Lippo firm in Jakarta, and has sacked its California fund-raiser, John Huang, who brought in questionable six-figure donations from foreign sources. It was Mr Huang who in

Israelis and Palestinians close to agreement on withdrawal of forces from Hebron

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAELI and the Palestinians are close to agreement on the long-delayed withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank city of Hebron, the United States ambassador, Marc A. Mitsch, said last night.

"We are engaged now in very intensive negotiations... We have made very substantial progress. I think we are relatively close to the end... but we still have some difficult issues to resolve," he told Israel radio.

Earlier, the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, said that after the latest all-night negotiating session the gap between the two sides was still "very wide".

But as the weary negotiators assembled in a Jerusalem hotel yesterday for yet another day of talks — the 17th in the current round — hopes were boosted by the appearance of the Israeli military chief, Amnon Shahak, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's number two, Mahmoud Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen.

Also taking part in the session was the US special envoy

Dennis Ross. On Monday he abruptly announced his return to Washington, but stayed when told of new progress in the talks.

At that stage the main sticking point was the so-called civilian-affairs section of the deal, covering the administration of Hebron after Israeli redeployment.

According to well-informed reports yesterday, Israel now accepts that the handful of Jewish settlers who live among 100,000 Palestinians in the city will have local services provided by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and municipality. The PLO negotiators, meanwhile, have accepted restrictions on the height of new buildings adjacent to the scattered Jewish settlements in the city.

The focus has shifted again to security arrangements. Under the original deal made a year ago, Israel was to maintain a security presence around the Jewish settlements, but relinquish most of the city to PA forces.

The new rightwing government wants to extend the area of Israeli control, retain a right of pursuit into Palestinian areas and ban Palestinian

police from carrying weapons larger than pistols.

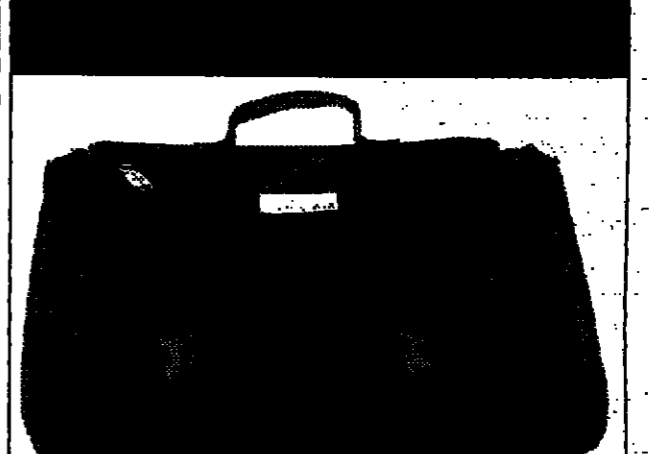
The security issue was given new urgency yesterday by a report on Israel radio, quoting a senior Palestinian police source, that large numbers of weapons have been brought into Hebron by the PA to counter any violent reaction to the pull-out by the armed and militant settlers.

The settlers immediately said that if they were attacked they would return fire.

The tension was further heightened yesterday by a public warning from the Israeli police chief, Assaf Hefetz, to be on alert against possible Palestinian militant attacks. The police force has stepped up patrols and check-points, and army bomb disposal teams are on stand-by.

The most immediate concern is that the militant Islamist group Islamic Jihad may mount a revenge operation to mark the anniversary of Saturday the killing of its leader, Fathi Shugri, gunned down in an assassination bearing hallmarks of the Israeli secret service, Mossad.

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The Guardian News in brief

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News in brief

Kool cigarettes 'keep you high for longest'

A 1972 memo by a Philip Morris scientist said focus group sessions suggested that Kool cigarettes were considered the best to maintain a high after smoking marijuana. The memo was uncovered as part of Mississippi's lawsuit against the tobacco industry to recoup the health care costs of smokers, said Ronald Motley, a Charleston lawyer assisting the state. It was written on Philip Morris USA inter-office stationery by AJ Udow, said by Mr Motley to be a company scientist. "A widely held theory holds that most people smoke for the narcotic effect (relaxing, sedative) that comes from the nicotine. The taste comes from the 'tar' (particulate matter) delivery. Although more people talk about 'taste', it is likely that greater numbers smoke for the narcotic value," it said. The major tobacco companies maintain that nicotine is not addictive and deny allegations that they manipulate the level of nicotine to keep smokers hooked. A lawyer for Philip Morris disputed the significance of the document. Mr Udow wrote that king-size Kool had the highest nicotine 'delivery' of all king-size cigarettes then available and that it suggested a "route for us to follow to capture some of Kool's business." - Reuters, New York.

Fury at 'mongrel' comment

ETHNIC community groups in Australia yesterday demanded the dismissal of a mayor who calls the children of interracial couples "mongrels". The mayor of Port Lincoln in South Australia, Peter Davis, refused to retract his comments or alter his opposition to multiculturalism, despite the resignations of nine of the 10 town councillors in protest. "He really is espousing almost a Nazi approach because he regards white with white relationships as thoroughbred relationships and interracial relationships as creating mongrels," the resigned deputy mayor, Greg Anderson, said. Mr Davis insisted: "The consequence of miscegenation is a mongrel, by definition. If I am out of step with mainstream Australia then let's have a poll." - AP, Sydney.

Row threatens summit

BOLIVIA may have to cancel a regional development summit in December because of disagreement between the United States and Latin America on the focus of the talks, the foreign minister, Antonio Arambar, was quoted as saying yesterday. Bolivia's La Razon newspaper said the US and some other countries believed the talks should focus exclusively on the environment, while the Latin American countries wanted a broader discussion of sustainable economic and social development. Mr Arambar said the Bolivian president, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, had made it "very clear that the fight against poverty is an essential part of the concept of sustainable development". He said the issue might be resolved at this week's meeting of the permanent council of the Organisation of American States in Washington. - Reuters, La Paz.

Ecuador plane crash kills 24

A CARGO plane crashed in flames in the Ecuadorian city of Manta, killing at least 24 people and setting fire to dozens of homes, officials said. The Boeing 707, belonging to the US company Million Air, burst into flames shortly after taking off for Miami with a cargo of frozen fish, lost altitude and hit a church bell tower. The plane plunged to the ground "like a ball of fire", a street vendor said. Radio reports said all three crew, believed to be Americans, were killed, along with 21 residents who burnt to death. At least 48 people were treated for critical burns, and the death toll could rise. - AP, Quito.

Segregation in Khartoum

KHARTOUM state has decreed strict sexual segregation in public, in line with its puritanical vision of an Islamic society. Under a decree approved by the state parliament and published yesterday, men and women cannot sit together in public and men may not watch women playing sports. Sportsmen cannot wear tight or short clothes which expose the body. It reiterates the ban on coeducation in schools. In higher education men and women students must sit apart. At public gatherings, theatres and cinemas, a curtain must divide the men from the women and on marches they will have to walk in separate groups, it says. The rules, which apply only to Khartoum city, do not differ greatly from ones issued in 1991 and largely ignored by the police and public. - Reuters, Khartoum.

Lavish wedding criticised

SPAIN'S powerful Roman Catholic Church, in a rare public clash with the government, has attacked a senior government minister for staging a lavish wedding while Spaniards are asked to tighten their belts. The deputy prime minister, Francisco Alvarez Cascos, aged 49, a divorced father of four, married a law student aged 22 at the weekend in a high-profile ceremony which crippled the southern city of Córdoba as police escorted ministers and jet-set figures to the wedding. "We Catholic Spaniards would have preferred more respect and discretion," a spokesman for the bishops said. They also attacked the minister for remarriage, saying the second wedding was invalid in the eyes of the Church. The public rebuke sent a ripple through the smooth relations between the Church and the conservative government of José María Aznar, who took office in May after 13 years of Socialist rule. The opposition has criticised the conservatives for what it sees as a pro-Church bias. - Reuters, Madrid.

SAfrica promotes black judge

SOUTH AFRICA'S first black judge, Ismail Mahomed, was confirmed by President Nelson Mandela yesterday as the new chief justice. The appointment follows controversy over efforts by supreme court judges to secure the post for the most senior member of the appellate division, Henkie van Heerden. The judicial services commission is believed to have voted 15-1 in favour of Judge Mahomed to succeed Chief Justice Michael Corbett, who retires next year. - David Beresford, Johannesburg.

Kaunda boycotts elections

ZAMBIA'S former president and now the main opposition leader, Kenneth Kaunda, said yesterday that his party would boycott the elections President Frederick Chiluba has called on November 18. Constitutional changes passed this year by a parliament dominated by Chiluba supporters block Mr Kaunda from standing for president, although his United National Independence Party (Unip) is free to take part. Mr Kaunda, president for 30 years three decades until President Chiluba ousted him in Zambia's first free elections in 1991, said neither he nor his party would take part. He urged Zambian voters to boycott the poll, which is not being held until three weeks after the five-year mandate of Chiluba's government expires, and said Unip would stage protest rallies even if the police banned them. - Reuters, Lusaka.

David Hearst in Moscow reports on interior ministry action against the former security chief

Lebed may be prosecuted

THE bitter power struggle between President Boris Yeltsin's clique of advisers and his ousted security chief General Alexander Lebed took a turn for the worse yesterday as the interior ministry handed prosecutors documents which it said proved that the general was preparing to seize power. Gen Lebed has ridiculed these claims, but as a man who has lost his place in the president's administration and no longer holds a parliamentary seat, he has no immunity from prosecution. The claims centre on allegations by the interior minister, General Anatoly Kulikov, a long-standing rival, that Gen Lebed was mustering an army of 50,000, supported by

1,500 Chechen rebels. Gen Kulikov said Gen Lebed intended to seize power in a "rolling coup". The documents handed to prosecutors yesterday were those placed before an emergency meeting of security chiefs, headed by the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, last week. While confirming that there was truth in the allegation that Gen Lebed was forming a new unit — a fact which Gen Lebed himself does not deny — the prime minister said he doubted whether it was to overthrow the state. Meanwhile the prime minister has appealed to the security services not to become involved in the dispute generated by General Alexander Korzhakov's claim, in an

interview with the Guardian, that Anatoly Chubais, the president's chief of staff, has usurped power. The presidential press service made no reply to the suggestion by Gen Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former bodyguard, that the president was too ill to exercise his powers. Mr Chernomyrdin told leaders of the Federal Security Service (FSB) that certain people were striving "to use the process of democratic reforms in the country to create extremist, militarised, terrorist and other formations". They posed a direct threat to state security. The prime minister did not mention Gen Lebed by name. All attempts to stop the mutual mud-slinging have failed, and if the prosecutor-general,

the government's main law officer, formally investigates Gen Lebed, more incriminating counter-accusations against Mr Chubais are certain to follow. This might force the ruling elite to gather around the prime minister and form a coalition with the Communists, who control the Duma. The aim would be to oust Mr Chubais. Gen Korzhakov, who has backed Gen Lebed's attempt to become the next president, has said he supports the full transfer of presidential powers to the prime minister, who is constitutionally the president's stand-in, to be followed in three months by elections. So far Mr Yeltsin has refused to hand over his powers, although he has laid the

legal ground for such a transfer. On Monday he nominated an informal caucus of four political leaders, which he said would meet regularly. No one knows what the status of this collective leadership would be. The four are Mr Chernomyrdin; Mr Chubais; Genady Seleznyov, the communist Speaker of the Duma; and Yegor Stroyev, head of the Council of the Federation, the upper house. Gen Lebed poured scorn on the accusations against him. In an interview with the weekly newspaper Argumenty i Fakti, he said: "Where are the crowds or the lists of plotters caught by our esteemed interior minister? Where are their bases? Where do they store their arms? Where are these Chechens coming to the capital in droves? It is the purest fiction." Both General Lebed and Gen Korzhakov claim that Mr Chubais is exercising total influence on Mr Yeltsin through his younger daughter, Tatiana Dyachenko, and dominating the work of the government. The Duma voted yesterday to halt the division of the Black Sea Fleet with Ukraine, a move likely to embitter relations between the two countries. Political analysts said, however, that there was little chance that Mr Yeltsin, who was due to discuss the problem of the fleet with his Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kuchma, today would sign the draft into law.

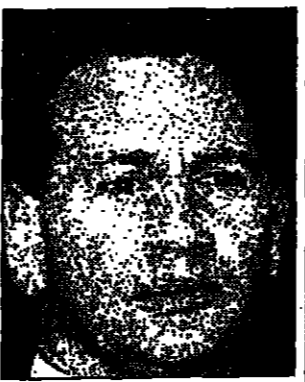


French hunters cull some of the 50,000 rabbits which overrun Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris; eating through electric wires and tunnelling under runways PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL LUPCHITZ

Portillo warns Nato not to go soft Vranitzky, 'dead man walking'

John Palmer in Brussels

THE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, warned yesterday that cuts in defence spending combined with moves to turn Nato into a primarily peace-keeping body could leave the alliance vulnerable in "high intensity" conflicts. Addressing the Belgian Royal Institute for International Affairs in Brussels, he said closer European collaboration in arms production, while opposing a defence role for the European Union. He said it would be wrong for Nato to imagine that all future conflicts would be of the kind waged in Bosnia or the Gulf. Twenty countries outside Nato now had ballistic missiles and 17 of the 53 identified world security flashpoints were within 200 miles of Nato's borders. After a 40 years nightmare of a divided Europe and cold war tension, naturally our citizens and politicians are anxious to believe that the new era will offer us tranquility and assurance," Mr Portillo said. "It would be nice to be able to agree... I urge Nato not to be carried away by such thoughts." While there was much talk of adapting and reforming Nato for new missions, the alliance was only successful because its members were committed to hard defence and to maintaining the military capabilities needed to meet threats to national survival. "This is not the time for Nato to go soft, and certainly not to convert itself into an organisation mainly capable of peacekeeping operations." Pointing to the development everywhere of sophisticated weapons systems, he said Nato had to be prepared for much worse conflicts than those in Bosnia. "Future high intensity conflicts may be short and sharp," he said. "There will be no opportunity for us to generate conscript reserves or to manufacture new weaponry. We must plan on the basis that what you start with is all that you will get." Recalling that defence spending in real terms in Europe had fallen by almost a third since 1968, Mr Portillo warned of a widening gap between the military capabilities of the United States and its European allies. He called for closer European collaboration in arms procurement and added: "We must do better than we have done on [the delayed] Eurofighter." He said he was "depressed" by the Maastricht Treaty review debate about future European defence and proposals to give the EU authority over the Western European Union. "Defence is a business



Portillo: 'Future conflicts may be short and sharp'

where deeds count, not words. I hope that unrealistic talk of EU defence guarantees has now been set aside." He said he was worried about Russia's continuing military capability, but recognised the need to ally Russian concern about plans to enlarge Nato with members from the former Warsaw Pact countries. He also suggested the Baltic states and others might be able to join later. "Nato and Russia must build a real strategic partnership founded on substance," he said, adding that the Conventional Forces in Europe arms control treaty drawn up at the end of the cold war was likely to be reopened if former Russian allies join Nato. "There is a certain demagoguery in Russia about Nato. We're asking them to work with their people to explain that Nato, through a very successful military alliance, is not an aggressive military alliance," he told the BBC. "I think the Russian troops who have been working alongside Nato troops in Bosnia understand that Nato is not a demon but... has helped to secure peace in the past."

Ian Traynor in Vienna

RELING from his worst election results in 10 years in power, Austria's centrist chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, is fighting for his political survival. Frustration in his social democratic party (SPO) is putting pressure on Mr Vranitzky to resign. But he has announced he will stand again for the party leadership next year. He may not last that long. "Dead Man Walking" is what the Vienna news magazine profile called him this week. Ten days ago the far-right Freedom Party of Jörg Haider triumphed in elections to the European parliament and the provincial assembly of Vienna. On the political fringe five years ago, Mr Haider won 2 per cent less than the social democrats in the Euro-poll and wiped out their majority in Vienna. As if to magnify his discomfort, Mr Vranitzky told profile: "The situation is very complicated. We can only interpret the answer given by the voters on October 13 as an answer to the question posed on October 13 and not as the denial of reality." Such elliptical conundrums contrast with the cheeky, soundbites of Mr Haider, who is already speculating openly about a coalition government with the SPO after Mr Vranitzky goes. The two men's political careers have shadowed one another. They have shown a gut loathing for one another. In 1986, the year Mr Haider took over the Freedom Party, Mr Vranitzky became chancellor. He instantly dissolved the coalition with the Freedom Party to disassociate himself from Mr Haider. The standoff has continued ever since. Given a system of proportional representation which makes coalition government the rule, Mr Vranitzky's aversion to the far right is now tantamount to disenfranchising almost a third of the electorate. The social democrats, long used to monopoly rule in Vienna, are cobbling together a coalition with the Christian democratic People's Party. It is already being described as "the losers' coalition." Although the European elections put the social democrats ahead of Mr Haider and the ballot does not necessarily reflect what would happen at a general election, Mr Haider is clearly still soaring while the chancellor slumps.

Brundtland seeks new pastures

Jon Henley in Helsinki

GRO HARLEM Brundtland, Norway's hasty popular prime minister, said yesterday that she was stepping down after dominating her country's politics for the past 15 years. The announcement gave rise to speculation that she may try to succeed Boutros Boutros-Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations, a position with which her name has frequently been linked, although she has refused to be drawn on the subject. Ms Brundtland, aged 57, said that she and her minority Labour Party government would formally resign tomorrow to ensure a smooth handover of power before next September's elections, in which she intends to seek re-election as an ordinary MP. "It is time to make clear who will be at the helm of the next government," she said. King Harald asked the Labour Party leader, Thorbjørn Jagland, to form the next government. Later Ms Brundtland told journalists that she had decided more than a year ago to step down before the Labour Party's annual conference in November.

"I have a good conscience," she said, "I feel I have done a reasonably good job for a number of years. At 57, one hopes to have many good years to work — I think there are many exciting things I could do." Her departure left rivals and observers mourning the end of an era. "She's been a mother to the country," said a leader-writer on Norway's main daily, Aftenposten. "She has no equal in our political system, and internationally she's been the best door-opener we've ever had." A medical doctor, Ms Brundtland was first elected to parliament in 1977, having already served three years as environment minister. She became the country's youngest, and first female, prime minister in 1981 and led three successive Labour governments from 1986, effectively wiping the Conservative Party of the political map. A fiery campaigner, she has also tasted bitter defeat, particularly when Norway voted by the narrowest of margins in 1995 not to join the European Union. She is best known internationally as a champion of women's rights — a record eight women were later 15-member cabinet in 1986 — and environmental issues.

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We are much bemused
This session is about elections not lawmaking

JOHN MAJOR called it a meaty Queen's Speech. But it was not a dish to set before a Queen. It was overcooked scrag end of neck, a menu full of political cheap cuts, and inevitably there was not a mention in it of the only truly meaty question of our time, the beef export ban. With the election looming, the Conservatives have served up a reheated second-day dinner of well-chewed old themes, in which the only fresh ingredients were delivered courtesy of pressure from Labour and the Liberal Democrats, allowing the bills on stalking and the paedophile register to be taken in government time.
The simple reality of the new parliamentary session is that it is dominated by the election. That is not in any deep sense the Government's fault. It is the fault of a system which decrees that elections are now generally held in the spring and that parliamentary sessions start in the autumn. The consequence of that is that the first session of a full five-year Parliament tends to run for 18 months and that therefore the final session — in 1996-97 just as in 1991-92 — lasts for only six. The short final session will remain a fact of political life unless and until the sessional timetable is reformed. As it happens, Mr Major hinted yesterday afternoon that he favours such reform. But it's a bit late for that now.
As a result we are in for half a year or more of the sort of dispiritingly trite party squabbling that characterised yesterday's events in the Commons. Mr Major has opted for a legislative programme which emphasises key themes — crime, education, and welfare fraud — which he believes appeal most to Tory voters. These, along with the Budget in a month's time, are the ground on which he will fight. But it leaves out vast areas of political conflict on which the Conservatives feel more jittery and on which both Tony Blair and Paddy

Ashdown concentrated yesterday. The beef crisis is clearly one of these. Mr Major said after Florence that the beef export ban would be lifted by November. But November is only a week away now, and there wasn't much sign of progress even before the new findings published by Nature magazine last night made an early lifting both improbable and undesirable.
Issues like this expose the fragility of the Government's new confidence. The Conservatives came back from Bournemouth in surprisingly good heart (surprising even to themselves), and were boosted by an opinion poll which showed a sharp cut in the Labour lead. They arrived at Westminster determined to put on a good show of unity. They kept it up for at least ten minutes into Mr Blair's opening speech. But then Mr Blair mentioned Europe and the Tory benches fell glumly silent — a sign that party unity on this sundering issue is much harder to maintain at Westminster than in a week by the seaside at conference time. Although there was an effective later counter-attack against Mr Blair on health spending, that is hardly going to worry Labour either, since they will always win an election fought on the NHS.
The really indicative event for the weeks to come, though, was the procedural about-face over the stalking and paedophile bills. The details, when in mid-debate the Government abandoned its plan to relegate these two issues to private members bills, will mean little to anyone other than political insiders. What matters more widely is whether such a moment strengthens or damages the Government. It made the Government look silly for a day. But whether anyone beyond Westminster really cares is a moot point. There will be many more such days in the grinding political conflict on which we are embarked for the next six months.

The Great Lottery Robbery

If the Treasury wants the lottery boosted it can do it itself

FOR ALL its faults — not least the huge statistical odds against winning — the National Lottery still induces innocent dreams for millions of people every Saturday night while raising large sums for good causes (which the Government should be funding but won't). But that doesn't mean we need a second one on Wednesday. There is obviously no law of nature stating that lotteries are fine for Saturday but not for Wednesdays as well. It's all a question of balance and perspective — a case of not allowing a hobby to become a habit. It's true that other countries like Ireland have a lottery twice a week thereby generating extra money for good causes without the moral fibre of the country being torn apart. But if the main point of a mid-week flutter (apart from yet more juicy profits for Camelot) is to raise more money for good causes then there are other ways to do this without turning us into a nation of lottery junkies.
For a start the Treasury should stop taxing the lottery proceeds forthwith. There was never a case to tax in the first place since most of the projects paid for by the lottery — especially the grand projects — are funded in enlightened countries out of tax revenues. To the extent that lottery income is a surrogate form of taxation it shouldn't be taxed at all. The Treasury claims that a 12 per cent tax is justified because people who buy lottery tickets would otherwise be buying something else that is taxed — so the Treasury

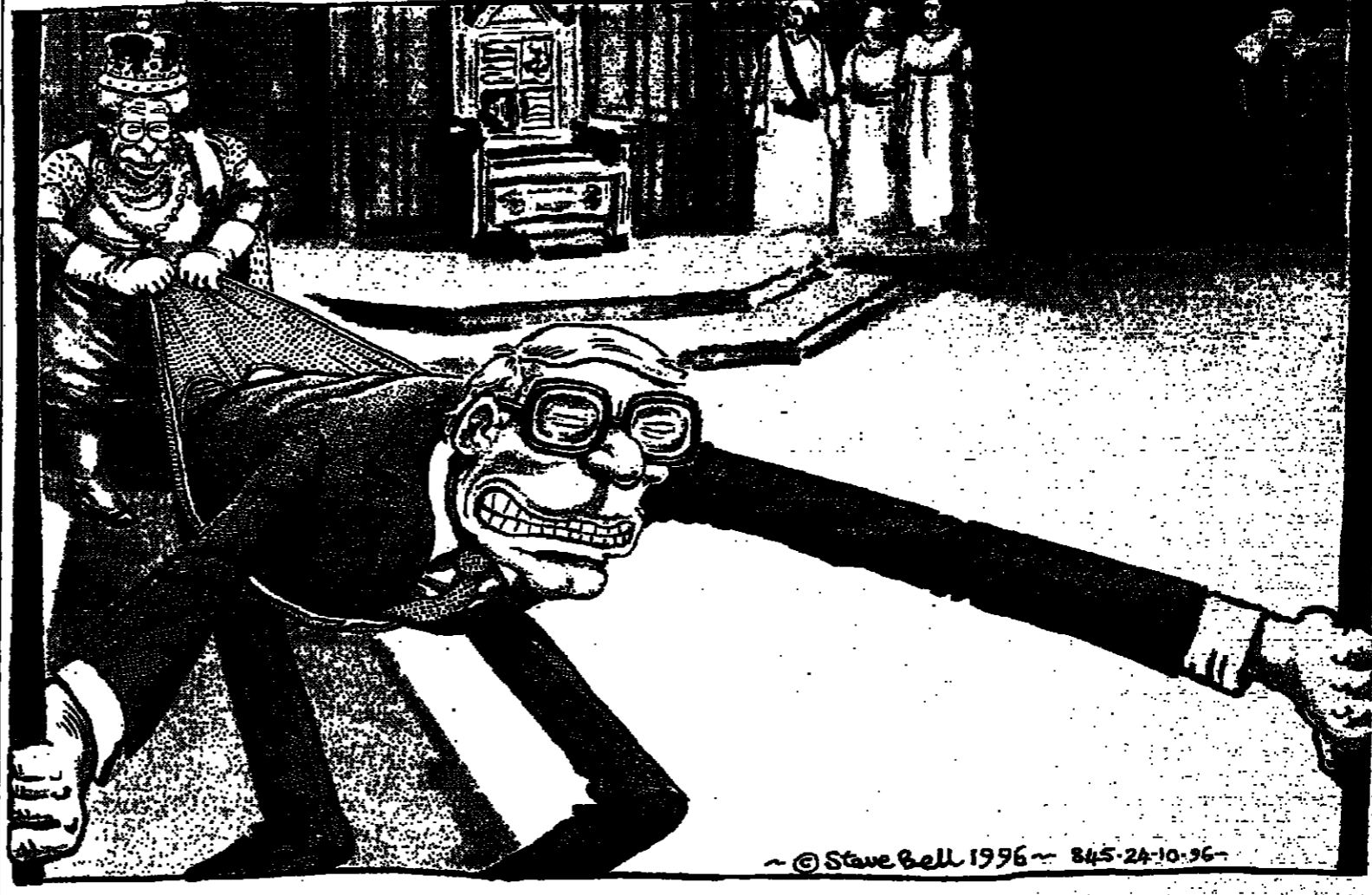
loses revenue. Phooey. That's only because of the myopic way the Treasury does its accounting. If the Treasury counted all the tax revenues it gets when lottery money is spent (and in subsequent rounds of spending) not to mention the beneficial long-term effects (like new sporting facilities reducing crime) then it wouldn't use such silly arguments. And has the Treasury ever counted the extent to which the public sector borrowing requirement benefits by several billion pounds from unspent lottery funds; and how the state's coffers have gained from the boost to premium bond income arising from the £1 million prizes introduced as a competitive response to the lottery?
The Government promised from the start that lottery funding would be "additional" and that it wouldn't load expenditure normally financed by the taxpayer on to the lottery. But it already has — notably in sports and the arts. If the lottery funds were boosted by up to 25 per cent by a mid-week draw the Treasury would be unable to resist the temptation to raid it again and again. The lottery is going to have a major impact on the artistic and sporting infrastructure of Britain and, less visibly, on charitable causes. It will almost certainly be the biggest — and quite probably the only — way in which posterity celebrates the government of John Major. And all the more so if he removes this utterly short-sighted tax in next month's budget. (But we don't advise a flutter on it).

First Church of Thatcher, Kansas

This is one part of the export drive we can strongly back

TO MOST people in this country Kansas means three things: miles of cornfields, the Wizard of Oz (Kansas was where Dorothy wanted to get back to) and, for another couple of weeks at least, the state's long-serving Republican senator Bob Dole. Now we must add a new Kansas icon. At about the same time that Judy Garland first set off down the Yellow Brick Road, the young Margaret Roberts went to chapel in Grantham to imbibe the fundamentals of Methodism before setting off on her own career as the Iron Witch of the West. That chapel, improbably, has now been removed from England and has been lovingly reassembled in the prairie state.
Quite why Grantham Methodism, as so avidly practised by Alderman Alfred Roberts should appeal so strongly to the citizens of Kansas is a bit obscure. Lady Thatcher may have preached the necessity of hard work and balanced budgets,

but her record in office was a lot less virtuous than she or her acolytes like to pretend.
Perhaps the answer is that both Grantham and Kansas are places which (ante Thatcher) made surprisingly little impact on history. The most famous thing that anyone ever said about Kansas was Mary Ellen Lease's remark that Kansas should stop raising corn and start raising hell. There is a note of exasperation in that injunction which has been heard regularly this autumn as Republicans demand a more combative campaign from the lacklustre senator. Someone obviously thinks that by importing the chapel they can also import some of the conviction politics that were nurtured there. Let's hope that, unlike the denizens of Lake Havasu City in California and their ill-fated purchase of London Bridge they have got what they wanted. As far as we are concerned they are welcome to it.



Letters to the Editor

An immoral crusade

AS THE teacher of a Year 6 class in a state primary school in Greenwich, I introduced a 'class switched off' moralistic lecture, October 23. I asked the class what rules they wanted so that they could get on with each other and their work and emphasised that it was their class: they had to share the responsibility for organising it.
They came up with suggestions such as working quietly, no shouting, following instructions, no name-calling, no racist remarks. They agreed that there should be penalties for not following the charter, such as writing lines (thousands), missing play, missing games, going to the head teacher, and me writing to parents.
Rewards were also agreed: going to the head teacher for praise and writing to parents to tell them of achievements. A letter home was by far the greatest prize and was celebrated with biscuits on Friday afternoon.
The result wasn't paradise but it substantially improved the classroom atmosphere. A plea — fund primary schools properly and enable them to tackle academic underachievement and social misbehaviour and alienation. It has much less chance of succeeding, and is more expensive, at secondary school.
Ann Hutchinsonson, 58 Sandford Road, London SE7 7LR.

every opportunity and resource to achieve development, a task best accomplished in schools rather than in the street.
Harassment, abuse, violence, exclusion from school, stop-and-search, mis-education, underachievement, male responsibilities, positive role models and mentoring all need to be addressed. And we require policies and programmes that support families in need, and that develop networks to sustain them.
Herman Ouseley, Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 10/12 Allington Street, London SW1E 5EH.

As a teacher, I disagree with Mrs Lawrence's proposal. Incidents such as the stabbing of Philip Lawrence and the murder of the children of Dunblane are tragic but rare occurrences. It is precisely their rarity that makes them so talked about. Teaching citizenship would not have prevented one of these terrible incidents.
We live in a society that is perceived to be full of out-of-control mobs of delinquents. This is not true and citizenship classes will only heighten the national neurosis. Teaching citizenship will turn teachers into welfare or crime-prevention officers and take more responsibility away from parents.
Joanna Williams, 26 Berkeley Road, Birmingham B25 8NG.

FOR sheer hypocrisy, John Major's attempt to align himself behind Frances Lawrence's moral crusade has no equal (Moral crusade gathers pace, October 22). He and Margaret Thatcher have fashioned a society based on greed, selfishness, social inequality and abysmal standards. All those things which Mr and Mrs Lawrence abhorred.
Who will be the next Tory politicians to offer her their wholehearted support — Hamilton, Mellor, Parkinson? Tony Thorn, 4 Blackthorne Close, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 0TT.

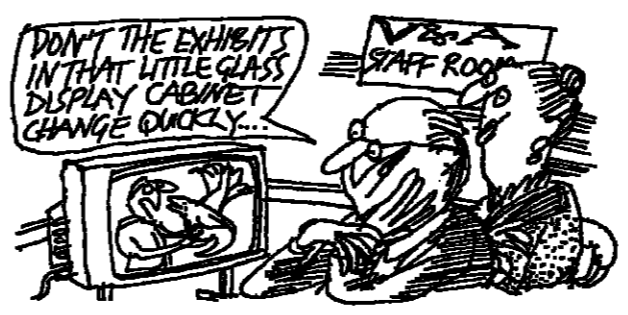
I AM the only retired Church of England priest living in postal area S4, the part of David Blunkett's constituency which has the lowest proportion of professional or managerial people of all Britain's constituencies. Christians with money, good jobs, etc, live in S10, which has Britain's highest proportion of professional and managerial people.
Christians, like other people, keep themselves to themselves, especially if their poorer and less-advantaged neighbours might want a little help in their struggle for dignity and self-improvement, justice and love.
(Rev) Ed Kessler, 44 Hinde Street, Sheffield S4 8EJ.

PERHAPS our politicians can now enlighten us as to why they were so enthusiastic about turning a restful Sunday into a commercial one, and enforced, despite what they say to the contrary, some to work on that day who have no desire to do so?
T H Hook, 35 Nobles Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0NR.

THE Royal British Legion will now be beginning its annual Poppy Appeal, soliciting your readers and asking them to remember the soldiers who laid down their lives in past wars and to give generously so that it can continue to help ex-servicemen. Retired army officers representing the Legion will also attend schools explaining about the benevolent work undertaken on behalf of disabled war pensioners. They will use posters depicting disabled ex-servicemen in wheelchairs or some other pathetic representation, knowing that these will gain the most from the public's sympathy.
As a disabled war pensioner confined to a wheelchair, I would like to ask your readers to give some thought and consideration towards our feelings, and to ask themselves who are the real beneficiaries from their donations.
I get extremely offended by the Royal British Legion inadvertently using me to get money under this false pretence. It would like your readers to believe that his help is freely available, that all one has to do is ask. This could not be further from the truth. We are required to go through an embarrassing and contemptuous application process to gain this help, regardless of whether it is forthcoming. It knows this outdated practice will bring about fewer applicants, consequently enabling it to spend more money on projects that are unrelated to helping disabled ex-servicemen.
When section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 was introduced, the then Attorney General promised that the pension to be paid to injured soldiers would be "as valuable to the soldiers concerned as any lump sum for damages which he might recover". Poppycock.
Your readers, especially those contemplating joining the armed forces, might like to know that a 100 per cent War Pensioner (the highest award) receives £106 per week in compensation, regardless of the severity of the injuries. He is then expected to approach service charities should he require something like an electric outdoor wheelchair that could make his life more tolerable.
Contributing towards the Legion, your readers are only subsidising government agencies and absolving them from the commitments made in the House of Commons in 1947. If the Royal British Legion really cared and understood the difficulties of disabled ex-servicemen, it would confront the Government and the MoD into honoring their commitment to give commensurate compensation to injured servicemen. It should also set up an appropriate welfare department staffed by qualified members who understand disabilities, and not employ insensitive retired Army officers.
Until the Legion starts treating us like human beings, I for one would like to see this yearly spectacle brought to an end. If your readers feel like making a donation towards a charity, may I suggest they try the Lottery: at least the organisers are open to public scrutiny.
Tom Campbell, 33 Kyles Drive, Garston, Watford, Herts WD2 6NT.

Some refuge

THE problems have scarcely begun for Steve Scully's asylum-seeker client, whom no-one can find to tell him of the restoration of his benefits (Letters, October 23). Well before asylum-seekers' benefits were withdrawn, advisers asked the Home Office how homeless people were expected to know when they were being called for interviews or appeal hearings, or how they might pay their rent in their serene reply was that "the onus was on the asylum applicant to take whatever steps were necessary to comply with our procedures". People who fall to attend interviews or appeal hearings can expect to have their claims rejected.
How this squares with the Government's responsibility to give refugees a fair hearing does not appear to trouble the Home Office: there appears to be a deliberate policy to inflict not only suffering but injustice on asylum-seekers.
Alasdair Mackenzie, Coordinator, Asylum Aid, 2448 Upper Street, London N1 1RU.



Nice caff, with a feud attached

SUSANNA White (Bang Goes the V&A, October 22) shows a lack of understanding of how organisations such as the V&A work. Even after spending the best part of a year with us, she seems no wiser, to judge from her comments. She seems to have blanked out everything which does not paint a picture of the plucky, daring, solo filmmaker doing battle with an obstructive, secretive, and V&A. The facts are less romantic but more accurate.
It was made clear from the start that some parts of the V&A's business were not open for filming. Modern Times

happily agreed. Much of Susanna White's frustration and tension within the V&A, arose from her energetically seeking to push at the boundaries of this agreement. We never tried to pull the plug on the film, although there was a point where we advised Modern Times they should recede pour mieux sauter. It certainly never needed Keith Cooper's intervention to convince Alan Borg to put "the film on again". The lunch in question took place in late May, after filming was almost complete. Tracy Williamson, Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL.

Britain's hungry hordes: charity begins at home

WE support Simon Maxwell's plea for serious commitment from the UK Government to the World Food Summit next month (This spread on a big table, October 16). Hunger and inadequate food intakes are not confined to so-called developing countries. We have worked as nutritionists in both south and north: the problems, while of a different order, are similar.
In our own country, those who beg for food or "spare change" on the streets are but the iceberg tip of increasing numbers who go without basics to keep their family together. These are people living on very low wages, or longterm on benefits, and especially where income sup-

port is reduced to recoup fuel, rent or water debts (one in five claimants). Food is what other people cut to meet other demands: it's the flexible item in the budget, and the consequences on health and wellbeing are severe. To make matters worse, many poor people live on estates where the shops have closed; street markets and small shops are disappearing with the rise in supermarkets.
The Government knows these facts: the Department of Health has just published Low Income, Food, Nutrition and Health: Strategies for Improvement, drawing on experience in the health, agricultural, local-government and retail sectors. The report documents the evidence of food

poverty and the potential for relieving it at local and national levels. That potential is not great.
The World Food Summit is essential for generating action to address these trends in rich and poor countries alike.
(Prof) Prakash Shetty, Elizabeth Dowler, Carol Aldous, Human Nutrition Unit, London School of Hygiene, and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT.
Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

How to save the UN (continued)

YOUR EDITORIAL on UN reform (October 21) was timely. Britain's role, as a permanent Security Council member, is crucial — although, with our current EU neurosis, we seem to have forgotten this.
A top priority, starting with the "permanent five", is to draw up a job description and a list of agreed criteria by which the selection of the Secretary-General will be made. It is disgraceful that this has not happened and that all we have had is the US branding its veto of Boutros Boutros-Ghali.
High among the criteria must be the ability to mobilise public opinion by articulating the challenges which make the UN indispensable,

the confidence and skills to develop a proactive instead of a reactive agenda of action, and the experience and firmness to sort out a demoralised and too frequently introspective bureaucracy.
But nothing is more important in the light of recent history, than to regenerate the UN's contribution to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace-building. Peacekeeping is not enough. To settle for that alone would be to reflect a counsel of despair.
Paul Eavis, Executive Director, Lord Judd, Senior Fellow, Saferworld, 33-34 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7DE.

A Country Diary

SPRATHDEARN: The red deer stag was roaring from across the strath but he was still difficult to find on the high slopes above the River Findhorn. Then, through the telescope, he came into view and I could actually see his mouth open although the sound took a few seconds to reach me. His harem was close by — 17 hinds and calves — but they were quietly grazing and ignoring the belligerent stag. Two other stags were sounding out their challenge from different parts of the strath and it was likely that this would be as far as it would go — vocal protests in the rut. Books may well talk of stags fighting to the death but most so-called battles are settled by roaring at each other or eyeing each other up at closer quarters although just occasionally fights will take place. Edwin Landseer's Monarch of the Glen was a fight of fancy as, in the red deer world, a matriarchy exists. Then, above the red deer, nine ravens suddenly

appeared. Playing in the wind, they rose up and tumbled down as if leaving to fly for the first time. One raven landed and the others circled as if concerned although I could see no reason for this behaviour. Another raven strayed too far along a steep cliff face where a rowan was red with autumn colouring and suddenly, as if from nowhere, it was chased off by a peregrine falcon and made to return to the other ravens. The saying I know about ravens only goes up to three so I wonder what nine would mean: "To see one raven is lucky 'tis true — But it's certain misfortune to light upon two — And meeting with three is the devil." Ravens have always featured strongly in myth and folklore and have always been credited with the powers of prediction. When Macaulay visited St Kilda in the 18th century he wrote that, of all the birds, the raven was believed by the St Kildians to be "the most prophetic".
RAY COLLIER

Handwritten note: 09/21/2015/20

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE delicate seduction of Mr Tony Blair nears a successful end: Mr Murdoch may not yet be lying on the bed, legs akimbo, an expectant smile playing about his lips, but he's certainly rolling down his tights, and the descent of his knickers may have begun. Evidence for this comes from news that last month, the Sun's political staff were preparing to savagely Mr Blair's Conference speech when a personal intervention from the paper's owner persuaded them, very gently, to change their minds. What appeared instead was an article glowing with praise and adoration. This obviously bodes extremely well as far as the Sun's election slant is concerned, and Mr Blair is to be congratulated. By grace and chutzki, at such a moment of triumph, to point out that those who metaphorically go to bed with Mr Murdoch invariably land up (metaphorically) with a nasty dose of the clap.

I AM pleased to hear a fond recollection of Andrew Jaspau from his days editing Scotland on Sunday in Edinburgh. The paper's then political cartoonist, Harry Horse, remembers strolling with the wee yin down Long Flesch Market Close, a Dickensian alleyway leading to the city's newspaper district, when the pair came upon a young boy, no more than 16. Far from unbaiting when the boy held out his hand, Andrew became excited, turning to Mr Horse and delivering a tirade about the awfulness of professional beggars. "You'd never have thought then that Andrew would one day emerge as a guiding light of the Big Issue," says Harry Horse. "Isn't it wonderful how people change?"

DESPITE a less infantile Conference speech than last year, it seems Defence Secretary Polly Portillo retains certain feelings about our European partners. German paper Der Spiegel reports on his visit to troops in Bosnia with German counterpart Volker Rube. Having refused to enter a Luftwaffe helicopter, marked with a Balkan Cross, Polly declined to fly with Herr Rube to Banja Luka unless the next stage, to Sipovo, was in a British chopper. Then he dismissed British hosts, lest they see him in a German helicopter, and finally, by way of a coup de grace, he refused to enter the German commander's Mercedes at the field hospital corps in Tragic, preferring the media scrum in a Land Rover. According to German Defence Ministry sources, Herr Rube - a ruddy, middle-aged public-school-educated Anglophile whose children are at school here - was more amused than irked by Polly's silly antics.

IN the New Statesman, Lady Falkender writes to correct a few points in a previous piece by John Rentoul. And having corrected, she writes on (and on, and on), comparing the tiny underfunded staff serving Harold Wilson, who won in 1964, overturning a three-figure majority, and the one serving Mr Blair today. "Blair has a staff of 20, a large state subvention, as well as a Party Leader's Trust," she writes. "It would be a great surprise indeed if in present circumstances and with all those advantages, Blair were not able to overturn a majority of two." Ouch. Close students of Lady F suspect she has been influenced by her favourite Monty Python "Isuzu" sketch. "Die at four, half an hour before we went to bed, 26 hours working at 11 mill, father killed us every night when we got home, no bloody Mandy Mandelson and rapid rebuttal in my day..."

FROM Hollywood comes what may be an important breakthrough in the fight against cellulite. "The secret of dealing with cellulite is to get rid of bad bacteria and fighting your bathroom," says Sharon Stone in Now magazine, "and use pink, low-level lamps instead." Ms Stone is alleged to be extremely bright, with an IQ well over 150. The FBI special agents are now thought to be investigating the actress on suspicion of unlicensed use of irony.



Government going round the last bend

Commentary Hugo Young

THE Queen's Speech will strike many people as an insult to the country. Who are these ministers, gratifying themselves for the last time with the flummery of power? How can the dignified apparatus of monarchy be assembled once again behind the programme of a party that has lost the moral right, and will shortly lose the political authority, to govern?

This is not the enrichment but the obscene postponement of democracy. The 18th Tory Speech, pallid manifesto of a dying regime, is full of gimmicks to test the Labour Party, and empty of reform to better the nation. By grace and favour of the Crown, ministers are, at great public cost, trading water, determined to remain in office until the last day the official Rovers come to the door. Can we not beseech them, in the bowels of Christ, to think they are mistaken? Why don't they have the decency to go?

There was a time when

quite a lot of Tories, and even some ministers, could be lured into this kind of thinking. They not only desired of winning but doubted their entitlement to do so. You could hear them muttering about the virtues of losing, of giving the other lot a chance to fail, of needing to sort themselves out. They wondered whether they had anything to fight for, beyond their own seats. But now such acquiescent pessimism has passed. Late in the day, the Tories are assembling a kind of rage at the thought of being displaced. And they have a case, which by historic standards is a good one. In this their emerging mind-set is different from what precedent says it should be. Six months before the 1964 election, after a previous unpopulated years of comfortable ascendancy, the Tories' psychology was as insecure as their programme was outdated. Harold Macmillan's central project, taking Britain into Europe, had collapsed, and the modernising of Tory philosophy was not assisted by the elevation of the 14th earl of Home. The party was living in another age. The fact that it still almost won is something else. Neither its leaders nor its members were equipped for the era then on the cusp of creation, and many of them knew it. Morally and politically, they were a broken lot. They had nothing to defend but their jobs. Present ministers are not so self-deprecating. The more they look at their record, the more they like it. Let us hear them out. The more they look at the Labour Party, the more they fail to discern the impending birth of any new era. The more reluctant they therefore are to hand custody of the era they have made into new and feckless hands.

They will say, and they have grounds, that they're presiding over a relatively efficient economy: inflation low, unemployment down, inward investment excellent, exports high, growth prospects good by comparison with neighbours and competitors. They've done this, they say, by modernisation and discipline. They've poured money into education and health; schools spending multiplied by nearly four in 17 years, NHS spending increased by more than 70 per cent. They've made utilities more efficient, and got to grips with the welfare crisis that engulfs the advanced world. All this is their own work, often bravely counter-cultural, and they're damned if they'll let less capable people inherit it.

They say, additionally, that these people will retard the country, all that Thatcherism has created by prejudice and inexperience. Of this they are utterly certain. Inside government, the residents are confident they know what the Labour Party is really like.

You might be surprised to hear how completely the Cabinet disbelieves in Labour's true absorption of the meaning of Mr Blair's leadership, and how fervently it predicts the wreckage that will result from his arrival in Downing Street. They add certain specifics, in particular about constitutional reform. This, they're sure, will come close to destroying government's capacity to attend to anything else, but then, if it is accomplished, will change Britain irreversibly and for ever: the prospect above all others that confers missionary status on their fight to keep power.

To me there are three reasons why a Labour victory is desirable. The first is Europe. A Labour government would bring some prospect of a Europe policy conducted in the interest of the nation rather than ambushed by the incorrigible divisions of the party. I do not understand how another Tory govern-

ment can have the slightest chance of improving on the destructive inertia that passes for our European policy. The second reason is the corruption, intellectual and pecuniary, with which an unending period of power has infected Conservatism high and low: the general blindness to this condition, and its certain perpetuation in a fifth term.

The third reason is the truest and most important - yet also the one that's more likely than at one was to inspire the

resources and a dangerous physical and social environment. Fathers are a problem. Where are they when it comes to the hard, routine labour of bringing up children? Where are the social policies that promote fatherhood and family life? The third reason is the truest and most important - yet also the one that's more likely than at one was to inspire the

Twenty continuous years in office are an affront to the efficiency of democracy

There has been a plethora of anecdotes in recent years about opposition in Whitehall to Eden's adventure, and no shortage of individuals, then at or close to the centre of power, looking back with dismay. Sir Frank Cooper, an Air Ministry official who went on to become permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, has disclosed how Sir Dermot Boyle, then Chief of the Air Staff, greeted him after a meeting with Eden. Boyle's opening words were: "The prime minister's gone bananas. He wants us to invade Egypt."

Suez caused the Queen "a great deal of concern", according to Lord Charteris, her former private secretary. "She was personally worried about it. Lord Mountbatten (the First Sea Lord)... was against it, and he saw quite a lot of her."

Sir Denis Smallwood, who later became Marshal of the RAF, has called the reasons given for the invasion plan as "utterly phoney" and "sick-making". Cooper says it was "sneaky and disloyal". Lord Hunt, Whitehall official at the centre of events who later became cabinet secretary, has described Suez as "a most terrible trauma". William Armstrong, a future head of the Civil Service, then a Treasury official, demonstrated his opposition by wearing a black tie for a week.

Though only a very few knew the details of the collusion plan, many sensed something sinister was afoot. Others simply disapproved of the use of force. Sir Dick White, then head of MI6, opposed Eden's aim of replacing Nasser with a client regime. (Eden had told Nutting: "I want Nasser murdered.") The military (including this writer's father) were frustrated by the continuing change of invasion plans and delays.

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ular in the 1950s. Now mother-blaming is back in fashion, supported by pro-family rhetoric from left and right, and aided by a backlash against the 1970s move towards equal rights for women.

A fundamental issue here is the status of children's rights. Barber wants children to work not only during the day, but in the evening too, to make up the deficiencies of the state education system. He wants parents and teachers to collaborate in forcing children to conform to school agendas. Where, in all this is the child as active learner, as investigator, as partner with adults in education? Where is the school as a democratic enterprise, enabling children to learn citizenship through participation? And where is the family as a democratic unit, with mothers and fathers equally responsible for what happens to their children?

Ann Oakley is Professor of Sociology and Social Policy and Director of the Social Science Research Unit at the Institute of Education; Berry Mayall is Reader in Childhood Studies there

But evidence shows that one of the most effective means of promoting positive educational, health and welfare outcomes for children is out-of-home daycare. This evidence doesn't fit the ideological position of the mother-blaming moral right, so it is ignored.

A humane society would base policies for children and families on good evidence of effectiveness. Ours does neither. Politically fashionable rhetoric, not facts, provides the basis for policy. Parent-support initiatives - such as the Newpin scheme reported in yesterday's Parents' Page - have no scientific basis for their claims to effectiveness: uptake is low among referred mothers, and many resist instruction in mothering. For there is irrefutable evidence that the main problem mothers face is inadequate

Parenting classes are no answer to our moral panic: they blame the mother for problems caused by lack of resources, argue Ann Oakley and Berry Mayall

Poor old Mother



MICHAEL Barber, Professor of Education at this institution, is wrong to suggest that the teaching of parenting skills can solve big problems in the education system. As an influential political adviser, Barber has been central in popularising the idea of parenting classes: something that politicians are now promoting, with home-school contracts, to solve our wider moral and social problems.

Under Conservative social policies, responsibility for children's welfare - at home, at school and in the neighbourhood - has shifted too far from the public to being private. Mothers are being asked to solve problems caused by underfunding, and by the construction of environments too dangerous for

children to use. Children too are being required to shoulder the consequences of underfunding. The underfunding of families is indicated by increases in child poverty since the early 1980s. A third of children live below official poverty levels. Serious social inequalities in health persist. And children from such poorly resourced homes are increasingly attending schools which lack basic amenities. Mothers are asked to contribute labour and resources, free, to essential school functions: raising money for books, working in the classroom. Education policies centre on the standardisation of childhood, and on the promotion of a particular view of family life. Competition between schools, fuelled by testing, produces a vision of the

"normal" child. Those children who cannot or will not conform (including those with special needs) form part of increasingly large classes. Fraying the "norm" means excluding deviants - or teachers can't cope. As Barber acknowledges, there is no evidence that what he proposes will work. A better starting point is to consider what we already know about interventions which are effective in promoting their wellbeing. Early childhood interventions mostly tell mothers (not fathers) what to do. Stigmatising mothers as feckless is as old as state education, and based on the assumption that mothers are ignorant and uncaring. Most claims for effectiveness of mother-education are made on the basis of weak or non-existent evaluations.

they should have known that. So should their elders. They are not stupid, but if ever two women embodied the black hole that is civic awareness and social responsibility today, it is Holt and Bird. Their behaviour displays an extraordinary lack of respect for the legal system: contempt indeed. They were afraid of Fryatt - of course they were - and had been intimidated by him and by his friends. But they did not tell that to the judge when he asked why they would not testify. Holt claimed she could not remember what happened - although she obviously regained her memory for the reporters from the Sun - and Bird said she was not sure it was Fryatt she had seen. "If the true reasons had been given, the trial might have gone ahead," said Lord Justice Roch at the appeal. The Crown Prosecution Service was criticised for failing to realise that the women were scared, but Holt and Bird behaved as if they could just close their

Contempt for the truth

Two women jailed for refusing to testify sold their story to the Sun. Sarah Boseley asks who should have protected whom

THEY were, long blonde tresses tossed off their faces, red lips parted in a shriek of joy, clutching each other for the cameras - kneeling on a bed, of course, and with plenty of thigh showing. Freed by The Sun EXCLUSIVELY, crowed the headline. This was the first morning of freedom for Sarah Holt, 20, and Sophie Bird, 22, the friends who had spent a week behind bars for contempt of court. What had they done to deserve it? They had refused to give evidence in court against Holt's former boyfriend, Alex Fryatt, who had beaten her to unconsciousness. They were afraid of what he might do to them, they said. The pair would not tell the court about Fryatt, who was formally acquitted of

grievous bodily harm with intent as a result - but they spoke to the Sun, which bought the story. "Shaken Sarah told how obsessed Fryatt beat her up throughout their three-year affair, and once pinned her photo to a wall with a knife through the face," the story ran yesterday morning. Of the attack which put her in hospital for six days, she said: "I thought I'd die, the pain was indescribable. The last thing I remember is him lifting my foot and stamping on my face. Then I passed out."

Had she said that in court, Fryatt would now be behind bars instead of being, as Mr Justice Benjamin Pearson said at Chelmsford Crown Court, "free to behave as he will, perhaps not to beat up your two, but probably beat up

someone else." At the Appeal hearing, which reduced their sentences from three and two months to one week, Holt was described as "a rather empty-headed, unsophisticated 20-year-old" by her QC, Alan Jones. Her silliness, he seemed to be saying, was her excuse - what more could you expect from a girl like that? After Fryatt had been freed, the pair were given Legal Aid by the judge and told to get representation in the contempt proceedings, because they could be jailed. Bird paid one visit to a solicitor, but failed to keep a second appointment.

HOLT, said Mr Jones, "hadn't bothered." She is too feckless, too unsophisticated, to go to a solicitor to get the matter sorted out. "They did not take the judge seriously." They spoke to family and friends and the general reaction was that the judge is just trying to frighten you," said Mr Jones. He was not - and

eyes and the whole thing would go away. They went to see Fryatt in the cells, to do a deal. If he promised to leave them alone, they would not testify.

NEVER mind the legalistic wheels which were already grinding: they had a wider duty to society to try to put a violent man out of harm's way. These two had an entirely self-centred view of the case, with fear to spur them on. They wanted him and him and nobody else. They are Thatcher's generation - they had no duty to society and they would not rely on it to protect them.

It would be very wrong to suggest that terrified women must always testify against the man who beat them up. Many, such as Gazza's wife Sheryl, choose for their own reasons not even to bring a complaint against their abuser. But if parents no longer tell their children that they have a duty to tell the truth before the law, then perhaps it really is time for education in citizenship.

Or should we just appoint the Sun as the highest court in the land?

A chance to atone for the folly of Suez



Richard Norton-Taylor

Forty years ago tomorrow, the British cabinet agreed to what Sir Anthony Nutting, Foreign Office minister at the time, describes as "a sordid conspiracy in collusion with France and Israel". Nutting was one of the very few in Whitehall who knew about the secret plan whereby Britain and France would use Israel's pre-arranged attack on Sinai as a pretext to invade Egypt in a spurious mission to safeguard the Suez canal for international shipping. There has been a plethora of anecdotes in recent years about opposition in Whitehall to Eden's adventure, and no shortage of individuals, then at or close to the centre of power, looking back with dismay. Sir Frank Cooper, an Air Ministry official who went on to become permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence, has disclosed how Sir Dermot Boyle, then Chief of the Air Staff, greeted him after a meeting with Eden. Boyle's opening words were: "The prime minister's gone bananas. He wants us to invade Egypt."

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Though only a very few knew the details of the collusion plan, many sensed something sinister was afoot. Others simply disapproved of the use of force. Sir Dick White, then head of MI6, opposed Eden's aim of replacing Nasser with a client regime. (Eden had told Nutting: "I want Nasser murdered.") The military (including this writer's father) were frustrated by the continuing change of invasion plans and delays.

From the start, the Manchester Guardian, as it then was, strongly opposed the use of force against Egypt on

moral and practical grounds. Among national newspapers, only the Observer took a similar stand. Labour gradually came round to oppose the Government, with Hugh Gaitskell, the leader, ending up a powerful opponent of the Suez escapade.

The US, who effectively forced the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt by pulling the plug on sterling, was anxious about its future standing in the Middle East - comments since by US officials sound pretty sanctimonious in the light of the US invasion of Panama and the ousting of General Noriega in 1989.

Sir Donald Logan, who as assistant private secretary to the foreign secretary, Selwyn Lloyd, participated in the secret meeting in Sevres, near Paris, where British, French, and Israeli officials signed the collusion protocol on October 22, 1956. He was in Parliament when Eden, answering a question from Nye Bevan, told MPs: "I want to say this on the question of foreknowledge, and to say it quite bluntly to the House, that there was no foreknowledge that Israel would attack Egypt. There was not." What was to be Eden's last statement in the Commons was a lie. Logan pointed out yesterday. Asked why he did not say so, Logan replied: "The idea that the servant should get up and say a minister had lied is a recipe for chaos and certainly disloyalty."

William Clark, Eden's press secretary, resigned quietly two weeks later because - he said, 12 years later - Eden's actions had required him to depart from telling the truth. The only person who resigned at the time was Nutting. He described the collusion deal in his newly reissued book, No End Of A Lesson, The Story of Suez, by Anthony Nutting (Constable, £9.95)

ALL the other participants, ministers and civil servants, placed loyalty to party or government above loyalty to their conscience. With the rare exception - Clive Ponting during the aftermath of the Falklands war, for example - they have continued to do so. We have only to look at the prevailing standards of political morality, and Whitehall acquiescence in official secrecy, to see the lessons have not been learned. Meanwhile, Nutting concludes his introduction to the new edition of his book with this appeal: "Alone, Britain clearly does not have the diplomatic clout to bring about an Arab-Israeli deal. But with her European partners she could do much to influence the course of events in favour of justice and peace. If only to expunge the folly and iniquity of Suez, she owes it to herself to try."

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Matthew Harding

Fan who stumped up for Chelsea

MUST have first met Matthew Harding, who has died aged 42, late in 1993. This incredibly wealthy guy has been standing, unnoticed, in his jeans at the Shed End at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground, but then I have always stood at the opposite end. And not many people knew him until Ken Bates invited him to put money into the club.

Football is a home for people with dodgy money, for whom the sport is a "business opportunity". Harding was utterly normal, a man without side, genuine, warm and that is why they loved him. He would joke that he was "worth a bob or two", but paid his taxes, earned his money. Our paths to Chelsea were similar. We were both eight-year-olds when our fathers took us along to Stamford Bridge. In his case a decade after me in the early 1960s. It was, he told me, a match against Newcastle and from that moment, the boy from Hayward's Heath was caught. But then came public school Abingdon — which he left with one A level in Latin, and he told other old boys earlier this year, a sense of failure. But the visits to Chelsea continued, and later the private drinks with his father at the Imperial Arms in the King's Road.

He was 19 when he became an apprentice in Ted Bend's re-insurance brokerage, working within the Lloyd's insurance market. It was a classic route, the office boy making the tea who by 1982 had become a director and six years later was borrowing £160,000 for a 33 per cent share in the company. A few years ago, following an invitation from Chelsea chairman Bates, he made Chelsea that 55 million loan, which helped fund the new North Stand — and soon afterwards joined the board. Last May he paid the Royal Bank of Scotland £16.5 million for the Stamford Bridge freehold.

After the battles with majority shareholder Bates, his position seemed more secure, with his 27 per cent holding in Chelsea. But there were, I suppose, always going to be differences between the two men. By the time of his death his City shareholding was estimated to be worth more than £150 million. I have been with Matthew Harding at matches where Chelsea have got stuffed — but while I tend to get dark and morose about losing, Matthew didn't. Indeed, he cheered people up. It was, I suppose, a sense of drive and determination which fused into his business acumen.

I had something to do with his decision to donate to the Labour Party, but for Harding, while the cash was up-front, he wanted to hand over something else, his skills. If the party can attract a man who offered money, a social conscience, and believed in wealth redistribution, then there is indeed hope for it. Before the last Labour conference, where he was to put in an appearance, he said, worried by his potential reception: "Here Banksy, you look after me". Sure, I replied. I was surprised from the beginning.

It wasn't that I shouldn't be forgotten, just money that Matthew put into the club. Anyone with cash can do that, but it takes real devotion to live out a long love-hate relationship with Ken Bates, just because you want the best for Chelsea. And it is surely not a coincidence that Matthew's time at Chelsea saw a movement away from our, workhorse mediocrity on the pitch towards at least an attempt to recreate the heady days of Hudson, Osmond and Rouse. When I first met him — after I got through the ridiculously long hug and the 20 offers of drinks — he told me, with a wink (he liked a drink) that he had bought Matthew Le Tissier, then after I'd finished punching the air, he showed me a little Matthew Le Tissier playing card in his diary. "Here he is," he said, and laughed for about half an hour. But he really did want to buy Le Tissier (with his own money, for God's sake), because he really did want the club to be like it was, a playground for maverick geniuses, and so I am sure that it was Matthew who was instrumental in steering the management away from people such as Ian Porterfield towards Glenn Hoddle and now something I still find

friendliest man in the world, Matthew Harding. That's the terrible tragedy about Matthew's death. Obviously, it was brilliant that he was piling money into the club, but beyond that, his intense and fantastically schoolboyish enthusiasm for Chelsea and all who sailed in her, has, over the last few years, spread around the place like an antidote to a long-established virus: the club has been, to use a terrible west coast term, healing. Now I worry — perhaps irrationally — that everything is going to regress back to the days when Doug Rougier would kick opposing players up in the air, and fans in the Shed would fight each other.

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Signing on for life... Matthew Harding, the vice-chairman who remained a supporter at heart.

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somewhat hard to believe — Rudd Gullit. He was that very rare item in football, a director who's also a genuine fan, able to relate naturally to the ordinary long-sufferers who turn up there week in, week out, but Matthew was one of the few who would, to use an old-fashioned phrase, wrestle over power from Ken. He would've been perhaps the first-ever Chairman. I remember going to see Chelsea versus Man Utd at Old Trafford last season, and, due to one thing and another, I ended up sitting in the United directors box. Halfway through the game, I shouted "bollocks" at one of the

linesman's anti-Chelsea decisions and was glared at so much by Martin Edwards, the Utd chairman, that I shut up immediately. Even when Chelsea scored, I bit my lip, I restrained myself, but Matthew, who was only about 10 seats along, stood up, shouting, screaming, waving at Dennis Wise, completely impervious to the etiquette of the directors box. I sit in the West Stand at Chelsea, as the more expensive East Stand is basically atmosphereless. I have occasionally sat in the East Stand, though, because I knew that there, Matthew would seek me out, and I liked

talking to him; it made me feel close to the heart of the club. And, when I say the East Stand is basically atmosphereless, it wasn't the seats around Matthew; his energy would subsume the club, subdue rows, and you'd never know you were in the East Middle Tier, where no one sings any songs. Me and 24,000 others — 32,000 when the new South Stand is built, with his money — shall miss Matthew Harding, through the sun and rain. Matthew Harding, businessman and football supporter, born December 26, 1953; died October 22, 1996.

Charles Tennant

Heir who lost a fortune

IT WAS a nightmare having a son like Charles Tennant, said his father Lord Glenconner, but "I never loved him any less". His son and heir, Charles, who has died of hepatitis C aged 39, had suffered from a long-term addiction to heroin which led Glenconner to disinherit him in 1978. Tennant conquered his addiction in 1993 but by then he had lost his claim to a \$14 million family fortune, including a 9,000-acre Peebleshire estate and considerable tracts of land in Africa and the Caribbean. The Glenconner fortune largely derived from the industrial bleaching of linen during the last century.

Charles Tennant was educated at Clifton College and Frensham Heights, a progressive school. Yet by the age of 13, he had experimented with LSD and by the age of 21 he was a fully-fledged junkie, which led Glenconner to disinherit him in 1978. The middle son, Henry, the same year, Tennant stole a set of private family pictures of Princess Margaret in fancy dress from his mother, Lady Anne, one of her ladies in waiting, and sold them to a drug-dealer for a "quarter gram of gear". The photographs were then sold to the Daily Mail for £3,000. A year later, Lady Glenconner sued the Mail for infringing her copyright and the newspaper

settled a large sum on a charity for recovering drug addicts. It says something for Princess Margaret's fondness for the Glenconners that at Charles's 1993 marriage to Shielagh Scott, a counsellor working with alcoholics, HRH stood at the front of the assembly and applauded his wedding speech.

Tennant also attempted to smuggle drugs through customs at Heathrow and stole the family silver to fund his heroin habit. In an attempt to straighten him out, his family sent him to sheep farms in Scotland and Australia, but it was not until 1990, after the death of Henry, that he really began to tackle his heroin habit. Henry's death from Aids and the involvement of the youngest son, Christopher, in a motorcycle accident which left him partially disabled fuelled talk of a "curse on the family" afflicting the family, though Charles blamed it on a pattern of behaviour which he believed could be broken. After leaving school, Tennant played the role of a rich and privileged man about town, that attracted to the rock and show business scene, and in 1978 was one of the founders of a magazine, Chelsea Scoop, for which he interviewed Andy Warhol. Good looking, he was also photo-



Tennant... conquered addiction and became a fund-raiser

graphed by Robert Mapplethorpe in the Chanel model Stella Tennant, as part of their campaigning work. Tennant was recently convicted of assaulting two policemen with a gun, but escaped a prison term. Charles Tennant is survived by his wife and a young son.

Charles Edward Pevensey Tennant, aristocrat, born February 15, 1957, died October 22, 1996

Wang Li

A revolutionary out of his depth

WANG LI, who has died aged 77, had his finest day on July 22, 1967, at the height of the Cultural Revolution. With his foot in plaster, he was greeted by almost the entire Chinese leadership at Peking airport, after winning a fierce battle between rival Red Guard factions in the central city of Wuhan. He had scored a revolutionary victory: the banners proclaimed, against the dogs' head counter-revolutionaries.

Six weeks later, when his "ultra-left" faction was itself condemned as counter-revolutionary, Wang was denounced as a traitor against Chairman Mao. Confused? So were thousands of Red Guards who took their lead from him: lamously, one group had seized control of the Foreign Ministry and stormed (setting on fire) the British chargé d'affaires' office in Beijing.

Wang did not exactly have "revolution" written on his face. Nancy Milton, a foreign "polisher" of official documents at the Chinese news agency, described him as a handsome man, "stout in his khaki padded overcoat, his suave banker's appearance suggesting an air of place amid the admiring swarms of excited Red Guards."

No youthful worshipper himself of the Red Sun, Wang was one of a group of middle-class ideologues who took Mao's side against the Communist Party bureaucracy for mixed reasons. Like many leftwing intellectuals, the ideologues were attracted by Mao's idea of building communism at full speed — even if the country was not ready for it. Joining Mao's camp also protected them from being labelled "bourgeois scholars".

Born to a property-owning family in the central province of Jiangsu, he joined the Party in 1939 and worked his

way up the national hierarchy of propaganda departments. By the early 1960s, he was helping to produce anti-Moscow polemics as part of the bitter Sino-Soviet dispute. Wang was closely connected to the mayor of Beijing, Peng Zhen. But when Peng became the first target of the Cultural Revolution in the spring of 1966, Wang made a quick switch to the Maoist camp. The ultra-left excesses of this camp led to the first split a year later. Mao's wife Jiang Qing and her group (who were later known as the Gang of Four) ousted political space by gaining Wang's clique. Wang was accused of seeking to undermine Premier Zhou Enlai. Jiang Qing had exactly the same intention but went about it more circumspectly later on.

Wang's downfall came about through two errors. Mao personally criticised his speech encouraging the Red Guards to seize the Foreign Ministry; the Chairman knew that revolution must be kept within the family. Wang also erred by sponsoring a controversial play, *Madman of a New Age*. Its real-life hero was a young man who after denouncing Mao's main rival,

Liu Shaohqi, had been certified as mentally ill. Wang claimed that the unfortunate patient was a political dissident suffering from "fascist persecution."

Whether the claims could be substantiated or not was never discovered; but it was foolish of Wang to get involved in the theatre which was, as everyone knew, the domain of ex-film actress, Jiang Qing. In 1967 Wang was imprisoned. He spent the next 15 years in jail without being charged with a crime. Outside, Mao died, others rose and fell — including eventually the Gang of Four. Wang emerged in 1982 to rejoin his wife, filing more than 100 petitions for rehabilitation by the Party. Wang denied that he had ever encouraged violence and claimed to have been the scapegoat for the chaos which almost destroyed China in mid-1967. He also claimed to have helped Deng Xiaoping write a letter of "self-criticism" which saved him from the fate of Mao's main rival, the head of state Liu Shaohqi, who was beaten and died in prison. Recently Wang claimed that Deng was prepared to rehabilitate him, but that other leaders objected. He spent his last years in Shanghai where he was said to live comfortably in a spacious house in Shanghai — with a red carpet.



Wang... from hero to 'counter-revolutionary'

Birthdays

Sir John Ayle, former director, GCHQ, 57; Nick Ainger, Labour MP, 47; Phil Bennett, former rugby player, 46; Luciano Berio, conductor and composer, 71; Ian Bishop, West Indian cricketer, 25; Peter Chenery, secretary, British Council, 50; Prof George Crumb, composer, 67; Barry Davies, sports commentator, 56; Jonathan Davies, rugby league player, 34; Sir Robin Day, former TV presenter, 73; Frank Delany, writer and broadcaster, 54; Prof Peter Gellhorn, composer, conductor, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, 58; Sir Ralph Halpern, former chairman, Burton Group, 58; Wally Herbert, Arctic explorer, 82; Prof Dame Elizabeth Hill, Slavonic language specialist, 96; Sena Jurinac, soprano, 75; Kevin Kline, screen actor, 49; Reg Kray, gangland criminal, 63; Philip McLean, ambassador to Cuba, 58; Adrian Mitchell, poet, 64; Sir Fred Pontifex, holiday camp founder, 90; Prof W Lindford Rose, psychiatrist, 82; Piers Rodgers, secretary, Royal Academy of Arts, 52; Allan Rogers, Labour MP, 64; Sir Robert Sainsbury, grocer, 80; Jane Stern, American writer, 50; Paddy Tipping, Labour MP, 47; Mark Tully, former BBC correspondent in India, 61; Malcolm Turnbull, Spycatcher lawyer, chairman of Australia's Republic Advisory Committee, 42; Paul Vaughan, radio journalist, 71; Bill Wyman, former Rolling Stones bass player, 55.

Death Notices

CAMERON, James (deceased), aged 87 years, on October 20, 1996. Deceased beloved daughter of Shielagh and Bob, sister of Valerie, Neil, and Prof. Neil. Burial will be held at All Saints Church, Liverpool, on Monday, October 28th, at 10am. Flowers or donations to charity, please. Contact: Mrs. J. Cameron, 11, Chesham Road, London N16 9EX. Tel: 0171 228 1955.

HOUSTON, Peacely (deceased), of Haverhill, Merle Curle Centre, Glasgow on Monday 23rd October 1996. Peacely was a devoted husband and loving father. Burial will be held at Haverhill Cemetery on Saturday 26th October at 11.00am. All friends are invited. No flowers please.

Wang Li, politician, born 1918; died October 21, 1996

Letters

David Silverman writes: Ken Murphy (obituary, October 9) played cricket into his sixties. The quirkiness we all so much loved in him was nicely revealed when, with full cricket gear at the ready, he was seen waiting in the rain outside Lord's for a bus to take him to play in Regent's Park. When it was pointed out to

him that play was unlikely in the downpour and, moreover, that the bus would have taken him in the opposite direction to the one he wanted, Ken was not in the least put out. All Ken's friends were disappointed not to see so much of him at cricket since his retirement from the Guardian library. We assumed that

it suited Ken's sense of humour to visit Lord's in his employer's time but not in his own.

Alma Cullen writes: We who were child-rearing mature women students at Liverpool University 20-odd years ago, still rarities in those days, have reason to be enormously grateful to our professor

of English Kenneth Muir (obituary, October 4). Not only did he welcome us into his department but also into a wonderfully fruitful engagement with English literature — this in spite of the reservations of some members of his staff. I think we all repaid his faith in us and I, who have no A-levels, now have two university degrees.

Jackdaw



A dog's life

EXCLUSIVELY handcrafted for the Farness Collection, these exquisitely designed beds for cats and dogs are replicas of those manufactured in 18th century France for the pets of the aristocracy and royalty families. Every detail is scrupulously checked for authenticity — woodwork is finished in pure gold leaf, and fabrics reflect original designs from the period. In two styles: the plumed pet bed is made of imported silk with four hand-carved and cast pineapples, painted in gold leaf and accented with hand-curled ostrich feathers and silk pompoms. It measures

approx. 36 x 31 x 48. The pet cushion, shaped like a neoclassical building, is hand-painted in pure gold and features an interior green velvet cushion, domed top with ball finial, three circular windows, curved break front facade, and a rear hinged door. Measures approx. 54 x 43 x 58. Both limited editions, destined to be heirlooms of the future. Plumed bed \$7,150.00. Neoclassical pet cushion \$8,400.00.

Redneck rules

DINING OUT: If drinking directly from the bottle, always hold it with your fingers covering the label. Remember to leave a generous tip for good service. After all, their mobile home costs just as much as yours. Entertaining in your home: Be considerate of your guests. Point out in advance where the injury-threatening springs are located on the sofa.

If your dog falls in love with a guest's leg, at least have the decency to leave them alone for a few minutes. Dating (Outside the Family): Be aggressive. Let her know you are interested. "I've been wanting to go out with you since I read that stuff on the men's bathroom wall two years ago."

Establish with her parents what time she is expected back. Some will say 10.00. Others might say "Monday". If the latter is the answer, it's the boy's responsibility to get her to school on time. If a girl's name does not appear regularly on a bathroom wall, water tower, or an overpass, odds are good that the date will end in frustration. Even if you can't get a date, avoid kidnapping. It's bad for your reputation. Theatre etiquette: Refrain from talking to characters on the screen. Tests have proven they can't hear you. Weddings: A bridal veil made of window mesh is not only cost-effective but also a proven fly deterrent. For the groom, at least rent a tux. A leisure suit with a cum-

merbund and a clean bowling shirt can create a natty appearance. Though uncomfortable, say yes to socks and shoes for this occasion. Driving etiquette: Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if the sun is loaded and the deer is in sight. Never relieve yourself from a moving vehicle, especially when driving. Do not remove the seats from the car so that all your kids can fit in.

Tips for all occasions: The socially refined never fish coins out of public toilets, especially if other people are around. If you have to vacuum the bed, it's time to change the sheets. Personal hygiene: Unlike clothes and shoes, a toothbrush should never be a hand-me-down item. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys. Etiquette redneck-style from the Deviant listserver. Bill Spring.

friends might actually insist on costumes this year. Try to avoid this year's obvious choices: the slimy alien from Independence Day; either presidential candidate; the much-loathed Izzy mascot from the Olympics; and for the second year in a row, the sexy impersonator of a bomber. (Or rather his police sketch — all you need is a hood, cheery aviator shades, and a flinky mustache.) For an easy, inconspicuous last-minute costume, wear all black clothes and attach one of fish scales to the doorknob as you arrive at the party. Let the line gradually unspool as you move around the room. When ensnared and irritated guests demand to know what your costume is, explain: You are a spider.

Chicken chat

ANDERSEN CONSULTANT: Derogation of the chicken's side of the road was threatening its dominant market position. The chicken was faced with significant challenges to create and develop the competencies required for the newly competitive market. Andersen Consulting, in a partnership relationship with the client, helped the chicken by rethinking its physical distribution strategy and implementation processes. Using the Poultry Integration Model (PIM), Andersen helped the chicken use its skills, methodologies, knowledge capital and

experiences to align the chicken's people, processes and technology in support of its overall strategy within a Program Management framework. Andersen Consulting convened a diverse cross-spectrum of road analysts and best chickens along with Andersen consultants with deep skills in the transportation industry to engage in a two-day trinary of meetings in order to leverage their personal knowledge capital, both tacit and explicit, and to enable them to synergize with each other in order to achieve the implicit goals of delivering and successfully architecting and implementing an enterprise-wide value framework across the continuum of poultry cross-media processes. The meeting was held in a park-like setting enabling and creating an impactful environment which was strategically based, industry-focused, and built upon a consistent, clear, and unified market message and aligned with the chicken's mission, vision, and core values.

This was conducive towards the creation of a total

business integration solution. Andersen Consulting helped the chicken change to become more successful. Hippocrates: Because of an excess of light pink gooey stuff in its pancreas. Epicurus: For fun. Pyrrho the Sceptic: What road? Aristotle: To actualise its potential. Nietzsche: Because if you gaze too long across the Road, the Road gazes also across you. Johann Friedrich von Goethe: The eternal hen-principle made it do it. Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road, the good, and the dead give its answers. From the humour listserver on the internet. Thanks to Gordon Joly.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax: 0171-713 4386; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3EP.

Emily Sheffield

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09/21/2015

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Finance Guardian

Notebook

Rising oil prices are slippery stuff



Edited by Mark Milner

THE rising oil price has been, for the last few weeks, a buy-the-pound sell-the-yen sort of story. Fair enough. Britain has barrels of the stuff, Japan imports a lot.

The effects of the price rise, however, are now spreading a little wider. Motorists will have noticed what is happening to forecourt prices. Yesterday the Dutch airline KLM announced that it was slipping surcharges on ticket prices to compensate for rising fuel costs — an indication, perhaps, that it expects to have to live with more expensive fuel for some time.

Dealers in financial markets other than the oil and foreign exchanges are also taking note. The oil price in German marks is up by more than 25 per cent so far this year. Some analysts reckon higher oil costs could add one

half of one per cent to the consumer prices index.

Germany's National Statistical Office revealed yesterday that import prices were up 0.7 per cent last month, the biggest monthly rise since last October. It is all very well to say that, stripping out what happened to oil — up by more than 8 per cent over the month — the outlook looks less threatening. But then stripping out the effect of the OPEC shocks would have made the 1970s look rather less inflationary, too.

Of course what is happening now is hardly in the same league — but it might be enough to make bond markets and the Bundesbank take note. The governor of the Bank of France, Jean-Claude Trichet, argues that Europe has reason to favour a stronger dollar. But with oil priced in the US currency the Bundesbank will not want

such a view taken too far. The Bundesbank's favourite barometer of inflation, M3, is already running above its target range. Higher oil prices can only increase its nervousness. That does not signal a rise in German interest rates, but it should give those hoping for just one more cut cause to ponder.

That will disappoint those of Germany's European partners who were hoping lower rates might just help with the very tricky budget arithmetic required in the run-up to single currency qualification.

Count Africa in

NOWHERE is the rhetoric of globalisation less relevant than on the continent of Africa. Far from rising with a worldwide tide of prosperity,

many African countries are stuck in reverse gear as population increases easily outstrip economic growth.

Africa accounts for just 1.7 per cent of world exports, while sub-Saharan African countries have a miserly 0.6 per cent of the market.

Yesterday's launch of an Alliance for Africa's Industrialisation is an attempt to speed the continent's entry to the industrialised world.

Leaders of the cutting-edge nations — including Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana — know that aid budgets in the West are under pressure, and want to emulate the rise of the Asian so-called "tiger" economies.

Secondly, as the African adviser to Unileo, Kande Yunkella, points out, many of the poorest countries lack the necessary institutional and intellectual capacity to drive forward a successful industrialising vision. By contrast Asia's tigers invested heavily in education.

Last, but not least, many African nations face high tariff barriers against selling to richer countries, mostly designed to protect Western farmers from cheaper Third World produce.

Sensible African leaders are determined to become less reliant on aid hand-outs from the north.

Certainly trade, rather than aid, is the best remedy — though there will remain a need for aid to help increase the continent's intellectual and technological capital. Globalisation has its problems but it has its benefits

too. It should not be allowed to pass Africa by.

Wired and fired

ASIGN of the times. Workers at a Havant factory learned that their jobs were being axed... from the Internet.

Arizona-based AdTex Solutions posted its report and accounts on its web site during US working hours. Eagle-eyed UK employees surfing the net found out from the report that the company intended to switch manufacturing from Havant in Hampshire to Lamphun in Thailand at the cost of 230 jobs.

The company said it had failed to take account of the time difference between the US and the UK. So much for the global village.

Customers can pay...

Tyneside bucks trend as it 'lives for today'

Peter Hetherington

CROWDS were trailing past George McDonald's office by the thousand in the Indian summer of a Tyneside half-term. "This is another super week," proclaimed the manager of Newcastle's Eldon Square shopping centre as he totted up what retailers call the foot flow. "An awful lot of money is changing hands," he said.

He calculated that yesterday over 50,000 had passed through the complex of almost 150 shops which dominates the city centre.

After a busy weekend, Mr McDonald predicts that his seven-day flow will top 500,000.

Annually, at least 40 million visits are made to the city centre shops at Eldon Square and the busy thoroughfare of Northumberland Street, and £1.4 billion is spent.

Add to that the MetroCentre edge-of-town shopping mall a mile across the river in Gateshead, with its weekly foot flow of 650,000, and you can soon appreciate that retailing — not the traditionally dominant heavy engineering sector — is now the mainstay of the Tyneside economy.

The Northern region, which embraces Tyneside, has the highest unemployment rate of mainland Britain, with an official jobless rate of one in 10. Yet 80 per cent are in work — and they spend like mad.

Recently the Property Managers Association named the MetroCentre as the most successful British shopping location for turnover, ahead of London's Oxford Street, Lakeside at Thurrock, and Meadowhall in Sheffield.

Eldon Square, and Northumberland Street — separately listed in a league table — were eighth and 10th respectively.

"We always buck the national trend up here," said the manager of one of the firm-sized stores. "People around here believe in enjoying themselves, living for today."

No one talks of a down-



Sales lift... 'Olympic shoppers' of the North-east at the MetroCentre, Gateshead, which is continuing to prosper, despite high unemployment. PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

turn in trade, with autumn booming after summer and takings well up on last year.

"There is a bottomless pit in the North-east called the pockets," said John Bryson, manager of the MetroCentre since it opened 10 years ago.

"We carried on through the early 1990s as if there

was no recession and just kept going.

"There's a large amount of disposable income around here — lower cost-of-living and lower mortgages. They're Olympic shoppers. Always have been."

Barry Turnbull, who is on a two-year secondment from Marks & Spencer as

city centre manager in Newcastle — a link man between the council, government agencies, and the retailers — does not underestimate the horror of unemployment.

"Clearly if you don't have a job — and a significant number don't — life is not easy. But people in work really enjoy life."

Berlusconi ruling boosts SFO

Dan Atkinson

AHIGH Court ruling yesterday in a case involving Italy's former premier Silvio Berlusconi has cleared the way for Serious Fraud Office investigators to crack open the secrets of London's huge offshore-company industry.

The judgment gives the green light for SFO inquiries

on behalf of police and other authorities around the world.

"London is at the hub of a large wheel," said an SFO source. In many funds, he added, "everything leads to London."

Two judges ruled that the SFO had been within its rights last April to raid a London business office and seize 15 bundles of documents even though it is not investigating any allegations of Berlusconi-

related offences in this country.

The SFO believes the verdict will make it more difficult for international fraudsters to hide behind offshore entities run by remote control from British companies.

Lawyers argued on behalf of the media-magnate and expatriate that allegations of bribery and fraud against him formed part of a power struggle in Italy and therefore Mr Berlusconi was facing "political" charges with which the Crown should not get involved.

They argued also that the raids had represented a "fishing expedition" rather than a hunt for specific evidence and was thus not authorised by Parliament when it allowed

the SFO to co-operate with foreign authorities.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Gage rejected these arguments. "I do not accept for one moment that the Italian magistracy's desire to expose and punish corruption in public and political life... operates to transform the present offences into political ones," Lord Justice Brown said.

Because of the legal challenge, none of the documents have yet been forwarded to Italy. A final ruling tomorrow is expected to release them for use by investigators in Milan.

Yesterday's judgment also clears the way for the SFO to question a number of people under its Section 2 powers.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9475	France 2.9225	Singapore 2.21
USA 1.65	Germany 2.8775	South Africa 7.10
Belgium 48.71	Greece 373.50	Spain 169.25
Canada 2.0575	Hong Kong 12.05	Sweden 10.50
Cyprus 0.7185	India 58.56	Switzerland 1.94
Denmark 9.10	Ireland 0.9850	Turkey 146.775
Finland 7.25	Israel 5.19	USA 1.5225

Compiled by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Shoppers rebel

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

FEARS of a 1980s-style runaway boom on the high street eased yesterday after the release of figures showing slackening retail sales growth and stiff consumer resistance to higher prices.

Sales volumes dipped by 0.3 per cent last month after posting a bumper 0.9 per cent rise in August, according to data from the Office for National Statistics. Over the year to September, sales grew by 3.5 per cent, against 4.3 per cent the preceding month.

City analysts welcomed signs of cooling sales, which they said reduced the chances of a rise in interest rates after the monetary policy meeting next Wednesday between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George.

David Coleman, UK econo-

mist at brokers CIBC Wood Gundy, said: "Mr Clarke should now have sufficient cause to forestall the Bank of England's campaign for higher rates."

Signs that the German Bundesbank was set to leave rates on hold added to the trading floor view that the Chancellor would stick with a policy of "steady as she goes".

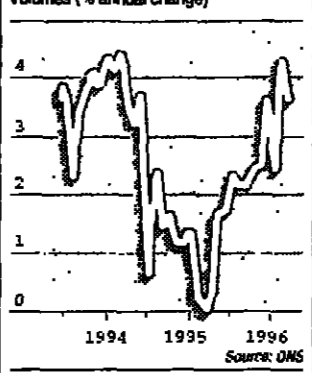
Market-watchers were also cheered by signs that attempts by shops to raise prices had been rebuffed by shoppers. Clothing and footwear stores raised prices by a record 5.7 per cent in September — resulting in an immediate 3 per cent fall in sales.

David Bloom, an economist at James Capel, said: "The consumer continues to operate guerrilla tactics, reacting in a price-conscious way. This bodes well for the inflation environment."

The Treasury said the ONS figures pointed to a healthy and sustainable recovery in retailing. Treasury minister Angela Knight said: "Taken

Retail sales

Volumes (% annual change)



Source: ONS

together, recent figures show that the high street is bustling."

Officials pointed to the quarterly trend as the most robust guide to overall activity. Between July and September, sales volumes rose by 0.8 per cent, the ONS said, compared to a 1.6 per cent rise during the preceding three months.

Economists pointed out that the sales data followed the stronger-than-expected manufacturing survey from the Confederation of British Industry — and formed an excellent backdrop for yesterday's Queen's Speech, which the Government used to reiterate its commitment to low inflation and sound public finances.

The ONS said sales of household goods had fallen by 0.5 per cent in September, reflecting the slowdown in the housing market recovery. But food sales continued to rise, up by 0.4 per cent in the month. And mail order sales began their autumn season early, with volume up by 0.6 per cent in September after a sluggish summer.

Most commentators said they expected sales volumes to bounce back during October, pointing to weekly figures from John Lewis showing the annual growth rate of sales up to 20 per cent this month, after easing back to 14 per cent during September.

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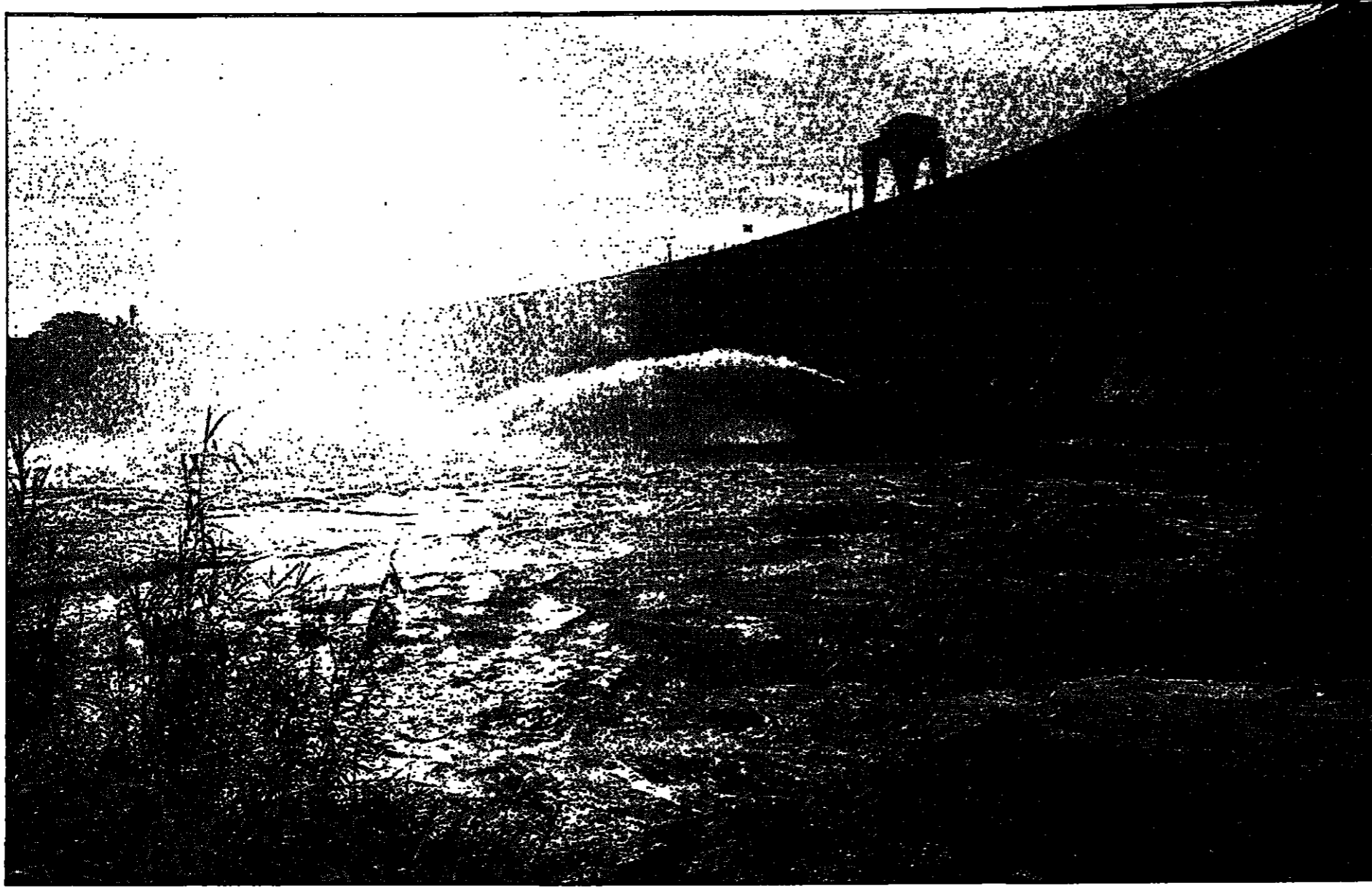
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TIN1

Continent resolves to work its way out of crisis. RICHARD THOMAS reports



Uganda sees the Owen Falls project at Jinja as helping create the right environment for economic success

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN STEJNEKAR

Africa faces up to tough choice

AFRICAN countries should follow the lead of the Asian "tiger" economies and industrialise their way out of poverty, a new alliance of governments and international agencies said yesterday.

With aid payments to developing countries being trimmed by almost all Western nations, African leaders called for a new spirit of co-operation in the continent to build strong export industries and compete in the global marketplace.

Host minister Theophile Ahoua Ndoli, Ivory Coast head of planning and industrial development, told African governments to take their cue from countries like Uganda and Ghana, which have boosted their growth rates through industry-led policies and irrigation programmes.

"Africans should stop feeling sorry for themselves, and not blame the external environment," he said. "It is not Africa's destiny to be per-

manently underdeveloped." Fifteen African heads of state and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation met to launch an "Alliance for Africa's Industrialisation", hailing industrialisation as the cure for Africa's ills and a lifeline for

the continent's 220 million poor people. The African leaders stressed the need for a partnership between nations, and between the private sector and governments, to reduce the continent's dependence on aid and agriculture —

which account for 31 per cent of the economies of countries south of the Sahara, and 20 per cent in North African countries.

Ivory Coast president Henri Konan Bedie criticised African governments for becoming reliant on aid, and challenged them to develop a distinctly African view of the future.

"In order to enable African nations to become newly-industrialising countries during the next 10-15 years," Mr Bedie said, "commitments must be made to develop Africa's natural resources, which provide the continent with significant comparative advantages."

He highlighted the need to build Africa's underdeveloped agriculture into a high-tech agri-industry, and to harness the skills of women.

Mr Bedie said Western media portrayal of Africa deterred potential investors and deepened the continent's poverty trap.

"The impression given is of a miserable Africa, with only

war and ethnic tensions. This is creating an economic desert in Africa, which profits the rest of the world."

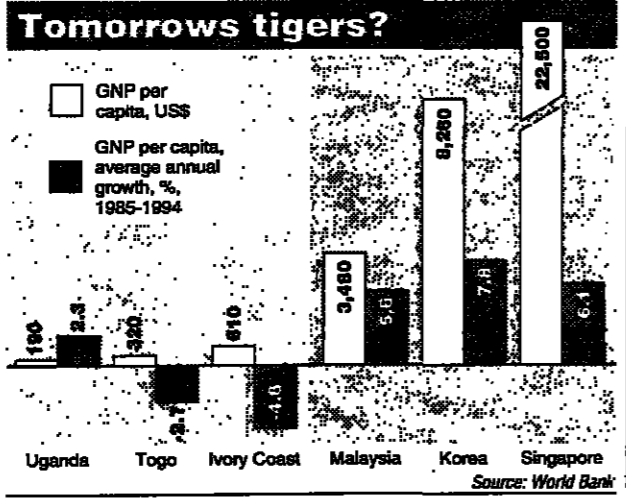
Kandek Yumkella, Unido's African representative, told the Guardian: "Africa is currently a footnote in the global economy. Attention needs to be focused on building strong government and institutions, strengthening manpower resources."

"Tough choices have to be made," he said. Mr Yumkella said African countries needed to address the issue of corruption, rise in many parts of the continent, distorting markets and repelling inward investment.

The head of Unido, Mauricio de Maria y Campos, said: "The alliance is timely and topical. It is timely because the challenge of globalisation

requires an immediate response. "It is topical because there is an opportunity for Africa's industrial take-off."

He said that the alliance would reconvene in two years to assess progress.



'Africans should stop feeling sorry for themselves, and should not blame the external environment. It is not the continent's destiny to be permanently underdeveloped'

Less Limelight for Boler

where Mr Boler has already invested a reported £10 million.

The disclosure came as Limelight whose other operations include Kitchens Direct, Portland windows, the Sharp's fitted bedrooms business and Dolphin showers — confirmed flotation plans, valuing the company at between £175-£190 million.

Launching the pathfinder prospectus yesterday, chief executive Stephen Cotter said Limelight was enjoying the pick-up in the economy, and the fact that consumers were spending more on home improvements.

Mr Cotter said that trading in the second half of 1996 was expected to be strong, continuing into 1997, with both Moben and Kitchens Direct trading above expectations.

He added: "All of our businesses report good order books and are enjoying a healthy levels of sales."

Mr Cotter said that Limelight, which operates nationally from 555 showrooms in some 342 locations, was expected to make pre-tax profits of around £15.8 million during the current trading year.

Apart from Mr Boler, who sold part of his stake in Manchester City to chairman Francis Lee when he bought control of the club in 1994, other shareholders are also reducing their stake in Limelight on the flotation.

ADT, the Bermuda-based group headed by Michael Ashcroft, is selling its complete shareholding. Schroder Ventures, which holds a 27 per cent stake, is expected to sell down to about 10 per cent.

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Gung-ho for hire and fire

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Get-two-free plan to replace the Britannia

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

A PRESTIGE £200 million all-British project to replace the Royal Yacht Britannia at no cost to the public purse has been submitted to the Government by a consortium of cruise and travel executives.

The Britannia, due to be phased out next year, would be replaced by two luxury vessels, with the Royal Family given first call on each of the 250-passenger ships. At other times the vessels could be used for Government-sponsored trade missions, and commercial luxury cruising.

The consortium's proposal is the latest in series of bids to save the Royal Family the embarrassment of not having a high quality vessel in which to sail, and the Government the embarrassment of having to justify raising the money for a Britannia-replacement from taxpayers.

Other recent proposals include using a Royal Navy three-mast training schooner, a plan by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson to team up with Govan Shipbuilders' sit-in leader Sammy Gilmore to devise a rescue package, and an offer from National Car Parks chief Sir Don Gosling to pay 25 million

towards the construction of a modern-day replacement.

Peter Robbins, marketing director for the so-called Britannic Project, said yesterday: "Replacing the royal yacht with a ship for royal purposes only is unrealistic. This project would give exporters a perfect showcase for British excellence and give discerning opinion-formers an opportunity to experience Britain at its best."

He told specialist newspaper Lloyd's List the ships would be British crewed and help create "jobs and prestige for our merchant navy".

If the plans were to be approved, the project could provide the first significant cruise ship construction orders for British yards in more than 25 years.

Mr Robbins said the Britannic Project would be funded by a mix of bank and private investor money; any shareholder must be a British national and would not be allowed more than a 24 per cent stake.

The consortium is seeking a 10-year commitment from Government to charter the ships for at least 40 days each year for royal or government use. "The cost would be approximately a fifth of the current cost of operating the Royal Yacht Britannia," Mr Robbins said.

Protests called as sick pay talks fail

Julia Gierz

GERMANY'S engineering and electronics industry is facing a new wave of protests after marathon talks to solve a dispute over sick pay cuts collapsed yesterday.

IG Metall, Germany's largest union, said action against the "uncompromising position" of the employers would start today. It claimed that firms are breaking national agreements that guarantee full sick pay.

Gesamtmittel, the engineering employers' association, stuck to a recommendation to its members to pay full wages until a new agreement is reached.

A new law allows German companies to reduce wages by 20 per cent during the first six weeks of illness. Employers argue that they need to cut wage costs to become more competitive. Germany's engineering industry has shed more than 140,000 jobs so far this year.

Employers are opposing any further increases in labour costs after hourly pay rates rose by more than 10 per cent in 1995-96.

Gesamtmittel believes cuts in sick pay would reduce costs by almost 1 per cent and stop misuse. IG Metall expects tens of thousands of workers to protest.

On October 1, about 150,000 workers took part in protests. Full sick pay has a symbolic value for workers because 40 years ago an earlier generation fought for it in a 114-day strike.

The package discussed by both sides also included holiday and Christmas benefits as well as next year's wage rise.

The union is asking for a rise of 4.5 to 5 per cent in the top wage bill, of which 2 per cent would be paid directly in cash and the rest in the form of measures to guarantee secure employment.

Murdoch to use Sky to raise £625m

Paul Murphy

RUPERT Murdoch's News Corporation is expected to confirm today that it is using part of its 40 per cent holding in satellite TV operator BSkyB to help raise \$1 billion (£625 million) for the rest of his media empire.

News Corporation is issuing a new class of preference shares which are convertible in BSkyB stock, allowing the Australian group to capitalise on the popularity of the satellite TV operator, shares in which have almost doubled this year.

Mr Murdoch is effectively using part of News Corp's holding in BSkyB, which is worth about £2½ billion in total, as security for a loan.

However, this innovative financing deal, which promises News Corporation the chance of raising money at a substantial discount to conventional bank debt, aroused suspicions in the City yesterday and sparked a sharp fall in BSkyB's share price, which closed 43p lower at 635p.

Earlier this week, shares in BSkyB hit a high of 696p, only to fall back on Tuesday in response to news of the merger between Cable & Wireless's Mercury division and three cable companies to form a new \$5 billion company offering packaged telecommunications, information and entertainment.

Brokers also cited yesterday's news that Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, has banned a sales promotion mounted by BSkyB in partnership with British Telecom, offering discounts to some of BT's customers who also subscribe to BSkyB TV channels.

It is expected that the new preference shares, which are being sold to investors through a private placement in the US, will only be convertible into BSkyB stock after five years. Pricing details have yet to be set.

7:30am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid

We've got more time for you

7:55pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow

020 755 1555

Saeed thrives on diet of big winners
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Racing Saeed thrives on diet of big winners

Chris Newkirk in Toronto

SAEED bin Suroor, Godolphin's trainer, tried to find a quiet corner in the track canteen at Woodbine yesterday to eat a breakfast steak sandwich until spotted by a bevy of British pressmen.

The sandwich gradually went cold as Saeed sportingly fielded a barrage of questions about Mark Of Esteem, Hailing, the trainers' champion filly and the Godolphin set-up in Newmarket next season.

This former Dubai policeman, who came to the notice of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has thrived since his victory in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot last month. "He's better now than he was before Ascot," he said. "He wouldn't like it too soft, but if Frankie (Detor) can keep him close to the front and look after



Team talk... Saeed bin Suroor chats to work-riding Kevin Harris after exercise on the Woodbine gallops at Toronto yesterday

PHOTO: GEORGE SELWYN

him, he must have a good chance. I don't think Frankie rode one of his best races on Hailing in the Champion Stakes. Hailing likes to lead and why Frankie did not lead I do not know. I would say that over a mile Mark Of Esteem is better than Hailing."

Saeed could not say

whether this will be Mark Of Esteem's last race, but Sheikh Mohammed has decided that none of the Godolphin horses will run on medication on Saturday.

Going to post with Mark Of Esteem in the Mile will be ridden by Walter Swinburn. Charnwood Forest

has recently been bought by the Rathbarry Stud for £3 million and will stand alongside Barabes, winner of the Breeders' Cup Mile in 1994, which, incidentally, is Detor's only success in this series of races so far.

Saeed has been training 45 horses at Monlon Park

in Newmarket this season but the Godolphin operation will expand.

"We may build new boxes," he explained. "We have 60 yearlings in Dubai and more of them will come over to run as two-year-olds in this country next season. This year I've had only 15 two-year-olds."

Saeed runs two of them, Asas and Medasly, in Saturday's Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster. "Asas has a good chance. This year a mile, next year a mile and a half. Maybe the Derby. I want to win the Racing Post race as I can still catch Henry (Ceeli) in the trainers' table."

Nottingham runners and riders

3.00 Annet Batchworth
3.30 Clontarf
3.50 Middleweight Wrench (2)
3.50 Apollo

4.00 Mr Spacemaker
4.30 Delta Star
4.50 Queen's Scout
5.30 High On Life

Best of Good (Good to firm in places), 4 Doublet Malabar, Drive: High beat over 20.

2.00 KIRKBY STAKES (5) 500m

1	10405	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10405	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10406	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10406	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10407	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10407	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10408	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10408	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10409	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10409	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10410	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10410	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10411	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10411	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10412	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10412	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10413	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10413	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10414	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10414	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10405, 2-10406, 3-10407, 4-10408, 5-10409

2.30 BARNETBY CLAIMING STAKES (5) 500m

1	10415	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10415	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10416	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10416	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10417	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10417	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10418	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10418	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10419	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10419	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10420	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10420	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10421	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10421	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10422	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10422	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10423	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10423	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10424	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10424	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10415, 2-10416, 3-10417, 4-10418, 5-10419

3.00 TOTAL TWO-YEAR-OLD MAIDEN STAKES (5) 500m

1	10425	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10425	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10426	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10426	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10427	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10427	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10428	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10428	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10429	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10429	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10430	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10430	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10431	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10431	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10432	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10432	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10433	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10433	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10434	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10434	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10425, 2-10426, 3-10427, 4-10428, 5-10429

3.30 NOTTINGHAM AMBASSADOR HANDICAP (5) 500m

1	10435	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10435	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10436	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10436	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10437	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10437	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10438	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10438	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10439	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10439	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10440	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10440	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10441	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10441	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10442	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10442	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10443	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10443	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10444	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10444	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10435, 2-10436, 3-10437, 4-10438, 5-10439

Ludlow National Hunt card

3.30 Impetuous Whodone
4.30 Crown Army
4.50 Cheval Ancestral
5.30 Spectacular

Best of Good (Good to firm in places), 4 Doublet Malabar, Drive: High beat over 20.

2.20 HALIFORD NOVICE HURDLE (5) 500m

1	10445	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10445	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10446	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10446	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10447	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10447	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10448	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10448	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10449	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10449	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10450	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10450	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10451	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10451	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10452	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10452	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10453	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10453	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10454	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10454	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10445, 2-10446, 3-10447, 4-10448, 5-10449

2.00 HANOVERIAN NOVICE HURDLE (5) 500m

1	10455	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10455	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10456	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10456	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10457	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10457	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10458	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10458	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10459	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10459	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10460	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10460	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10461	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10461	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10462	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10462	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10463	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10463	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10464	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10464	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10455, 2-10456, 3-10457, 4-10458, 5-10459

4.00 BABA AN BISHOP (13) Williams 4-5-5
10 36116 POLLY PHEASANT (27) (2) D
11 36117 POLLY PHEASANT (27) (2) D
12 36118 POLLY PHEASANT (27) (2) D
13 36119 POLLY PHEASANT (27) (2) D
14 36120 POLLY PHEASANT (27) (2) D

TOP FIVE: 1-36116, 2-36117, 3-36118, 4-36119, 5-36120

4.00 WOODBURY HANDICAP (5) 500m

1	10465	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10465	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10466	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10466	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10467	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10467	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10468	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10468	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10469	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10469	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10470	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10470	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10471	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10471	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10472	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10472	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10473	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10473	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10474	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10474	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10465, 2-10466, 3-10467, 4-10468, 5-10469

4.30 ST ANNE'S MAIDEN STAKES (5) 500m

1	10475	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10475	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10476	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10476	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10477	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10477	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10478	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10478	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10479	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10479	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10480	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10480	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10481	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10481	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10482	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10482	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10483	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10483	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10484	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10484	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10475, 2-10476, 3-10477, 4-10478, 5-10479

5.00 HORSBACH BETTING BOARD MAIDEN STAKES (5) 500m

1	10485	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10485	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10486	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10486	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10487	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10487	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10488	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10488	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10489	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10489	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10490	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10490	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10491	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10491	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10492	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10492	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10493	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10493	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10494	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10494	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10485, 2-10486, 3-10487, 4-10488, 5-10489

5.30 HORSBACH BETTING BOARD MAIDEN STAKES (5) 500m

1	10495	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10495	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10496	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10496	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
3	10497	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	13	10497	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
4	10498	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	14	10498	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
5	10499	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	15	10499	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
6	10500	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	16	10500	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
7	10501	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	17	10501	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
8	10502	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	18	10502	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
9	10503	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	19	10503	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
10	10504	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	20	10504	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10

TOP FIVE: 1-10495, 2-10496, 3-10497, 4-10498, 5-10499

3.50 LUDLOW BROTHERS NOVICE CHASE (5) 500m

1	10505	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	11	10505	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
2	10506	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10	12	10506	WELLINGTON (27) (2) D	4-10
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Becker quick to kill off Rusedski

David Irvine

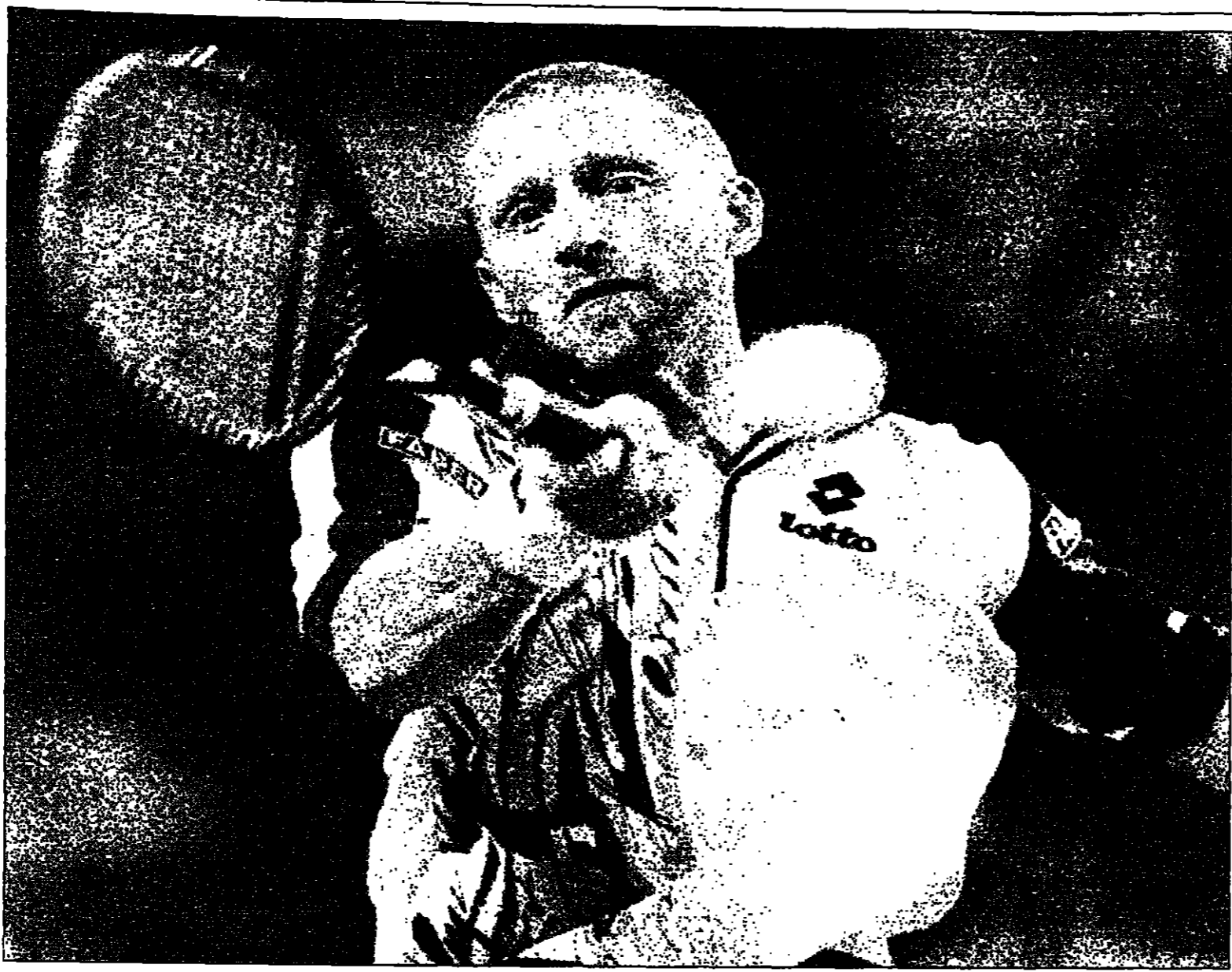
BORIS BECKER, who defaulted in Ostrava last week with a recurrence of wrist injury sustained at Wimbledon, showed no sign of discomfort as he beat Britain's Greg Rusedski 6-4, 6-4 in the second round of the Eurocard Open in Stuttgart yesterday.

Rusedski's fierce serve, timed at up to 130 mph, failed to intimidate the sixth-seeded German, whose far superior ground game gave him an advantage whenever he made a return or the left-hander missed a first serve.

A match with few rallies was over in an hour — far quicker than the five-set contest when they met last year at the Australian Open. In a serve-dominated second set yesterday, 13 of the first 26 points were aces.

Rusedski, who took the Beijing title two weeks ago, won four points off Becker's serve in the second set, one on a double fault.

Stefan Edberg lost 7-6, 6-3 to the No. 5 seed Goran Ivanisevic, and the No. 3 seed Thomas Muster had to default with a leg injury when trailing 2-0 in the third set to Australia's Mark Woodforde.



Return with a vengeance... Becker showed no sign of his wrist injury as he needed only an hour to defeat Rusedski

PHOTOGRAPH: RALF STOCKHOFF

Rugby Union

RFU tempts clubs to £18m deal

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND'S leading clubs have been offered an £8 million bait by the Rugby Football Union in a gamble which goes over the heads of the clubs' negotiators. Twickenham has sent out a letter to each of the 24 clubs in County Durham and we are not in the business of calling off international games. Epruc seem to want the RFU to completely

administer the professional game.

The RFU president John Richardson further warned Epruc, the body representing those 24 clubs, that if it withdrew players from England's international at Twickenham on November 23, the team would be selected from the lower leagues. "There are lots of good players in the country and we are not in the business of calling off international games. Epruc seem to want the RFU to completely

hand over the senior club game and give them any money they feel like asking for. This is not possible." Jack Rowell, the England manager, gave a strong hint that he would name his captain next month irrespective of whether the dispute had been resolved. Although he does not wish to subject the new captain to political pressure from warring factions, his hand may be forced. The England squad of 21 will be announced on November 4.

The former captain Will Carling, who resigned from the post in March, said there were no circumstances in which he would decline to turn out for England, whatever policy Epruc adopted towards the release of players. "The players should not be used as pawns," he said. "Players should always be allowed to play for their country. I am sure England will pick their strongest side and the players will be available for the Italy game."

After Tuesday's breakdown of talks, Epruc has called for the appointment of an independent arbitrator. An idea the RFU will discuss tomorrow — to help find a solution. Negotiations stalled over the degree of autonomy Twickenham is prepared to allow the clubs.

However, Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman, admitted that the RFU, as the supreme governing body, would have to maintain "necessary controls" over club competitions and TV agreements. Its letter to the clubs claims the proposed contract has "sufficient provisions to ensure that the RFU's overall guardianship of the game and its international commitments are not endangered while at the same time giving the clubs sufficient freedom to develop the domestic game commercially."

Carling goes back to the centre when the going gets Brive

WILL CARLING will revert to centre on Sunday for Harlequins' European Cup match with Brive, with Gary Connolly moved to the wing. Both sides are unbeaten and likely to qualify for the quarter-finals, where pool winners get home advantage.

Jonah Lomu will miss the final of New Zealand's provincial championship between his Counties-Mankau side and Auckland on Sunday. He is suspended for a week for a "spear" tackle last weekend.

The Newcastle prop George Graham is the first former rugby league player to be selected for a Scotland representative team. The former Carlisle player, a B cap before that, is in the A line-up to play Australia at Netherdale on Wednesday.

Louis Luyt is to be challenged for the post of Transvaal president by his deputy Brian van Rooyen, a Coloured official who will mount the first opposition to Luyt, also Sarin president, since 1989. "I am nobody's puppet," he said.

Epruc has threatened Twickenham with legal action over alleged restraint of trade and infringements of the Treaty of Rome but Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said the contract offered to the clubs was based on sound legal advice from two sets of counsel and would stand up strongly should it be tested against current sports law.

Sport in brief

Leeds decide not to pull up their roots

LEEDS rugby league club look set to stay at Headingley and have called a press conference for next Tuesday when they say they "will make a major announcement regarding the future of the club and the stadium." A bid by Casper, the owner of Leeds United, to take the rugby to the new stadium under its wing at Elland Road is believed to have been rejected in favour of a local businessman after an outcry by supporters angry at the proposed move. The new owner is thought to be a millionaire property developer, Paul Caddick, who played rugby union for Castleford in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Yankees fine and dandy

JUST as the Yankees appeared to be fighting a lost cause in the civil war between North and South, the New York team sprang back to life with a 5-2 win at the Atlanta Braves. The Yankees now trail the defending champions 2-1 in the best-of-seven World Series and may have seized the initiative, with the Braves manager Bobby Cox lamenting: "The Yankees scored in the first inning through Bernie Williams, who said: 'The biggest hit of the day was my single in the first because it put us ahead for the first time. From then on we looked forward to playing the game.'"

Swede smell of success

ONE of the world's best-known coaches, Soren Ahlen, is to take charge of the England men's table tennis team, writes Richard Jago. Ahlen is head coach of the Sweden squad who regained the European title from France in Bratislava in May. "Soren has performed at the very highest level," said Richard Yule, chief executive of the English association. "This appointment shows we are serious about getting our team among the world's best."

Group 4 looks secure

GROUP 4, the leader of the BT Global Challenge, is expected to cross the finishing line of the first leg at Rio de Janeiro some time tomorrow, writes Bob Fisher. The team is running short for the crew, rationing began some time ago, and the "midnight feast" on Monday was a piece of dry bread, but morale is high as Golding is confident of finishing with a 50-mile buffer between him and Simon Walker in Toshiba Wave Warrior. Walker may have a fight on his hands, with Chris Tibbs in Concert only 12 miles behind him and closing remorselessly. The scrub for fifth place, between Richard Merrivener's Commercial Union and Andy Hindley with Save the Children, promises to be even closer, with 37 miles to go they were ahead and less than a mile apart. Hindley promised: "They shall not pass."

Scot hits the rocks

JAMES WATTANA reached his first ranking quarter-final in Britain for 18 months by beating Billy Snaddon 5-2 in the Grand Prix at Bournemouth yesterday. He faces John Parrott tomorrow while Snaddon prepares to travel free to Bangkok with £1,500 for his trouble in case either Stephen Hendry, John Higgins or Alan McManus, who comprise the Scotland team, fall ill during the World Cup, writes Clive Everton.

Cricket

Pakistan field Hassan Raza, 14

Harold Rushton in Pakistan

PAKISTAN have all-year possessed the greatest capacity to surprise the rest of the cricketing world. They did it again last night by announcing that they would field a 14-year-old batsman in today's second Test here against Zimbabwe. Hassan Raza will become the youngest ever Test

player in succession to the current Pakistan coach Mushtaq Mohammad, who was 15 years and four months when he made his debut against West Indies in 1958. Raza came to public attention when he made 80 in the Under-15 World Cup final at Lord's against India last August. He returned to Pakistan and immediately made four hundreds in an under-15 provincial tournament. He followed that with

a 50 in Zimbabwe's only warm-up match before the first Test, and last week made 98 in his maiden first-class match for Karachi Blues against Karachi. Then, as for this match, he was given time off school by a sympathetic headmaster who knows he will finish his studies in six months to play cricket full-time. He flew from Karachi on Tuesday night to meet most of the Pakistan players for the first time.

Mushtaq admitted that had Australia, West Indies or England been the opposition Raza would not have played. "That would have been too risky," he said. "But this was too good an opportunity to miss as Zimbabwe's attack is poor." Zimbabwe include two 20-year-old fast bowlers, both uncapped. Poni Mbangwa will share the new ball with Bryan Strang, and Everton Matambanazo will come on first change.

Golf

Allenby set to be one-hit wonder

David Davies in Valderrama on a ludicrous scenario involving a 25,000-mile round-trip for the injured Australian



Allenby... broke sternum

AT 8.50 this morning Robert Allenby, fractured sternum and all, will walk gingerly to the 1st tee and there have a ball teed up by a caddy. Probably he will take out his putter and either hit the ball a few yards or just wait for the club in its general direction for what would constitute an air shot.

He will then return to the clubhouse and head for the airport before flying back to Melbourne, Australia, a 25,000-mile round-trip. There will be photographers hanging out of the cork trees recording this farcical interlude. Indeed two Australian television stations are sending crews with Allenby for every step of this magnificently unnecessary journey.

The whole thing, as Colin Montgomerie remarked yesterday, "brings the game into disrepute". He added: "It's a farce. We are holding ourselves up to ridicule. It won't matter if someone goes round in 64, everyone's attention is going to be on Allenby."

This situation has arisen because six weeks ago, 25-year-old Peter Oosterhuis was driving hit a traffic island in San Pedro's high street and he cut his head on the windscreen and smashed his brassiere on the steering wheel. He is still not fit to play, and yet the PGA European Tour has decreed that he must compete in this week's event or forfeit up to £70,000 and a possible place in next year's US Masters.

Allenby, currently third in the Volvo rankings, will collect £20,000 if he is still in that position at the end of the tournament, and, as invitations to the US Masters are based on those final positions, he will stand a better chance of going to Augusta if he plays the air shot. Montgomerie said that a solution should have been found, and that he did not think hitting one shot was competing. "Common sense," he said, "would say something like 'suspend'."

But then common sense has been in remarkably short supply. There has been far too much of the jobsworth, rules-are-mentalities prevailing when it should not have been beyond those responsible to save golf from a few degrading moments.

One way round it would have been to declare the bonus money unofficial, which would mean Allenby not losing out so far as his ranking for the US Masters was concerned. Another would be to require two doctors' certificates, including one from a Tour-nominated medic. To say a player was unfit.

A third, advocated by Montgomerie, would be to put all the bonus money into the prize fund and play for the lot, which, though it would not help Allenby on this occasion, would at least ensure that fiascos on the 1st tee occurred more rarely in future.

Anyway, despite the presence of almost the strongest possible European field, this year's Volvo Masters promises to be Valderrama without the drama. Montgomerie acquired the European No. 1 spot for the fourth successive time at the start of the month, equalling the record set by Peter Oosterhuis between 1971-74.

Rugby League

Lindsay wields axe at home and abroad

Andy Wilson in Palmerston North

ADEMORALISING blow has been dealt to Great Britain's preparations for the second Test here tomorrow, which they must win to keep the three-match series alive. On instructions from Leeds, 12 of the party have abruptly been sent home.

yesterday saw five staff made redundant, including Paul Harrison, media manager since April 1995.

Dave Callaghan, the RFL's broadcast manager, said that Harrison's departure was part of a restructuring exercise, but rumours of a strained relationship between Harrison and Lindsay have long been in circulation.

There was no opportunity to say goodbye, for they were in Auckland whereas the main group were already here training to face New Zealand.

The opening legs of this tour, to Papua New Guinea and Fiji, were never going to be anything other than loss-making missionary trips but there had been genuine hopes that the Lions could make it pay in New Zealand. Instead the games have been poorly promoted and sparsely attended, with last Friday's first Test attracting a paying attendance of less than 10,000, about half the Auckland Warriors' average gate.

Neither the tour manager Phil Lowe, who stayed with the 12 after Monday's defeat by the Maoris, nor the coach Phil Larder, who was en route here, was consulted, although the chief executive Maurice Lindsay did telephone Larder last night to explain his decision.

Great Britain were already the underdog after losing the first-choice three-quarter line before the tour. Now they have failed to win in four games in New Zealand, and several key players, including the scrum-half Bobbie Goulding and centre Daryl Powell, are nursing injuries.

Larder had already spoken of his disappointment that "the tour has disintegrated with me on the other side of New Zealand from the players", and yesterday he added: "I don't think Maurice realised I was in one town and the players going home were in another, which was my main moan."

Larder has named Powell, who has a hamstring problem, in tomorrow's side with Barrie-Jon Mather on standby. Castleford's scrum-half Tony Smith was ruled out with an arm infection so Karl Hammond is rewarded for his consistency in the midweek team with a Test debut, albeit on the bench.

Although it was always indulgent to keep 32 players with only two Tests remaining, 20 may be too few, and the handling of the matter has been so clumsy that it might have been designed to undermine the Lions' preparations.

The New Zealand coach Frank Endacott's only problem is whom to leave out. He is expected to replace former Castleford centre Richie Blackmore with either Canberra's Ruben Wiki or Marc Ellis, who impressed as substitutes last Friday.

Andy Farrell, the tour captain, said: "Everybody is really down. What is hurting us all, and especially me as captain, is not being able to say thanks and goodbye."

"Touring is supposed to be about making friendships forever, and the spirit in the squad has been superb. Now we have to have taken this decision and it's left a nasty taste." Lindsay has seen only one game on tour; he has been preoccupied mainly with the Super League appeal hearing in Sydney, but more recently with a financial crisis at the Rugby Football League's Leeds headquarters which

Athletics

Crystal Palace in tug of war

Duncan Mackay

AROW over the ownership of Britain's flag-ship meeting is threatening the future of top-class athletics at Crystal Palace next year.

Conflict has been growing steadily between the BAF and SEAA. The SEAA representatives on the BAF council refuse to support the creation of the British Athletics Association or the proposed regional membership scheme.

In a separate row, the BAF executive chairman Professor Peter Radford has come under fierce attack from Glasgow officials after he accused the city of having a "crude backwoods mentality". Radford was explaining why Glasgow had not been given an indoor international fixture this season for the first time since the Kelvin Hall opened in 1988. He claimed that perimeter advertising boards had been removed and replaced, and that BAF officials trying to put them right had been threatened by Glasgow city staff.

"When we returned in the morning there were banners standing over them in a menacing way," said Radford. Brian Connolly, Glasgow's director of parks and recreation, retorted: "The state the sport is in, Prof Radford is a fine one to talk. If we pay for a top-class event we expect to get it. We are not going to have the public ripped off for £9 a ticket when BAF provide second-rate opposition."

The British Athletic Federation will find another venue for the IAAF Grand Prix meeting on June 29, it warned the South of England Athletic Association because the SEAA asked for the event to be removed from the new television contract to be announced next month.

"We have not as yet announced any venues for our fixtures next year," said Tony Watts, the BAF spokesman. "We obviously regret that the SEAA has taken this course of action. But it's the BAF who have been awarded the meeting, not the SEAA."

The Crystal Palace meeting is the SEAA's biggest money-spinner. The event made its reputation under Andy Norman but has been slipping down the IAAF's league table of performance since Norman was sacked by the BAF two years ago for gross misconduct. In an attempt to restore former glories, the SEAA wants Norman to resume putting together the elite field.

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Sheikh's man leaves his Mark, page 13
Twickenham dangles £18m bait, page 15

Soccer season on the move, page 14
14-year-old picked for Test, page 15

SportsGuardian



Block and tackle... the Leeds goalkeeper Martyn and Radebe, sliding in, combine to keep out Villa's Johnson at Elland Road last night

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Coca-Cola Cup, third round: Leeds United 1, Aston Villa 2

Villa get the trip and penalty deserts

Michael Walker

THINGS get no better for George Graham. Eight games in charge now and his record reads, won two, drawn one, lost five. Last night's defeat was Leeds's second in four days to Aston Villa and so there was revenge neither for

Saturday nor for last season's League Cup final between the teams. The wretchedness of Leeds' display against Villa in March was undoubtedly the first flag on the path that brought Graham to Elland Road. It was another six months before Howard Wilkinson departed but the memory of that Wembley perfor-

mance hung around Wilkinson like a bad smell. Not that the majority playing last night were involved in last season's final. Villa fielded six from that game, Leeds only four. Both sides had also made changes from Saturday's line-ups and one of Leeds', Cousins, almost justified that decision in the second minute.

His curler from 20 yards was dabbed away by Bosnich. Villa had already set a sparky trend after 30 seconds when Curric took advantage of Sharpe's slip but Taylor could manage only a minor connection to the cross. Headers from Johnson and Sharpe then flew over. Rush snapped a half-volley wide and Wallace bounced a shot on to the

bar. Leeds were finding space. It was not, however, as dangerous as the gaps Villa were developing. Curric, with a swift give-and-go with Johnson, created room for a shot, as did Johnson soon afterwards from Nelson's floated pass. Villa should have gone ahead in the 23rd minute when Jobson clearly dragged down Curric in the area as Curric rounded the Leeds man. As it followed a collision between Johnson and Martyn, Jobson was the last man at the time but Jeff Winter ignored Villa's pleas for a penalty. Curric took his right boot off in disgust.

Winter claimed at half-time that he did not see the challenge in question, which was an honest admission, yet also damning. Upset though they surely were, the visitors' momentum was not interrupted. Yorke shot direct from the restart and five minutes later wasted the best opportunity of the game to that point. Leaving Beesley with embarrassing ease, he strolled on to

Taylor's overhead clearance but a combination of a bobble and careless finishing killed the moment. They were now clearly superior, both individually and collectively. Johnson sped by Sharpe only for Martyn to save instinctively from Yorke, then Curric struck a post with Martyn well beaten. Then, in the 68th minute, all changed utterly. Wallace latched on to Radebe's long ball, swung in a low cross and Sharpe, arriving at speed, scored with impressive calm.

Leeds, though, could not protect that lead for even 60 seconds as Curric cruised by Ford. Jobson fluffed his kick and Taylor equalised from three yards. In another seven minutes Villa had the lead they deserved. Predictably Yorke was the scorer and creator, coolly placing the penalty past Martyn after he had been tripped by Beesley. Leeds United: Martyn, Kelly, Beesley (Wright, 85min), Johnson, Radebe (Witherall, 70), Sharpe, Ford, Palmer, Cousins, Wallace, Rush. Aston Villa: Bosnich, Nelson (Drapar, 70), Tier, Ehigbo, Soramesa, Wright, Taylor, Curric, Townsend, Johnson, Yorke. Referee: J Winter. (Stockton-on-Tees).

God is left on the bench for power game



Jim White

JACK CHARLTON'S new autobiography is packed with jolly disclosures, among them details of his frosty relations with his brother, his frosty relations with Eamon Dunphy, his frosty relations with much of the wideleaves of Britain and Ireland. Also his pathological inability to see someone else with a packet of cigarettes without cadging one for himself. But perhaps the most entertaining revelation is the news of the big man's dressing-room behaviour while a player. Apparently, such was his slavery to a succession of little routines — put the left sock on before the right, put the right boot on before the left, tie the left lace before the right and so on — that by the time he retired from playing for Leeds United, Charlton was taking up to an hour to kit himself up. So certain was he that some cataclysmic disaster would befall him and the team if he altered his methodical approach, he even refused the captaincy because that would have meant leading the lads on to the pitch and his habit was to be last out of the tunnel.

It appears odd that a man of Charlton's straightforward, call-a-spade-a-bloody-shovel demeanour should be prey to such credulity, it should be remembered that this was a prerequisite for members of the glorious Leeds side of the Seventies.

On the pitch they may have oozed cynicism, but off it there was a shared assumption that a greater power was controlling the enterprise. And that didn't mean Don Revie. The manager, according to Charlton, was the worst of the bunch, a man riddled with superstition (his favourite, presumably, the belief that if you dropped the opposition captain 50 yds before kick-off the match was as good as yours). Despite blaming him for setting the tone, Charlton nevertheless dedicates his book to his old boss, claiming that no other manager could come close to Revie. Which probably had something to do with his habit of never having his lucky suit dry-cleaned. Leeds, however, were by no means alone. Footballers seem uniquely inclined to believe

in a power which can only be controlled by routine. Bus drivers, before they engage the ignition, don't run through a check-list of pre-emptive obsession; surgeons don't insist on entering the operating theatre after their nurses; and judges don't worry that their judgment will be impaired if they put their wig on before their gown. Yet almost every footballer will admit to a little warm-up shtick intended to pacify the malevolent force of fate.

Intriguingly, the belief systems follow no set patterns. Though most restrict themselves merely to the way they get dressed, the goalkeeper Les Sealey was more concerned with how he travelled to the ground. Once he had an accident on the way to a match, played well and refused to have his car repaired for six months. And, he claims, when he finally had the bumper replaced and the dents knocked out, he played a stinker the next game.

Virtually every player and manager is prepared to use whatever external forces he can to influence a result. Except, it seems, Glenn Hoddle. Interviewed on BBC's The Big Question on Sunday morning, the England manager said that, though he is an active Christian, he would never call on God to intervene in something as trivial as a football match.

Thus, for example, if the 1986 World Cup semi-final reached a familiar denouement, Hoddle would be willing to pray during the penalty shoot-out in the hope of obtaining the right results. Which makes for an intriguing thought: while everyone else on the team would be doing just that, the one true believer would rather not be bothering his God, for fear, perhaps, that He might turn out to be German.

THERE was no such sensitivity for Jack Charlton, incidentally. During the 1990 World Cup shoot-out between Ireland and Romania, as David O'Leary shaped to take the crucial kick, Charlton admits in his book that he had his back turned to the action.

It wasn't that he was too nervous to watch what happened. It was simply that he had stuck his head through the barrier separating the crowd from the players and was cadging a cigarette from an Italian spectator. Just as he got a light, O'Leary scored. Don Revie would have been proud of his old protégé: in times of football crisis the most important thing is not to alter the habit of a lifetime.

BECKSENTRICS
THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF EUROPE'S FREE THINKERS

Deciding which hand luggage to take on the plane is often tricky - you never know exactly what you might need while cruising at altitude. A Polish man flying home on British Airways was shocked when his pet python sneaked out of his hand luggage for a slither around the plane. But not half as shocked as the American couple who found the python crawling across their seats.

How then from...
...when a...
...if you persona...
...ing all the...
...his table...
...how wait...

From...
...write

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

This is a book which Tony Blair probably ought to get around to reading sooner rather than later. Not for the bits about Andrew Neil but for the bits about Rupert Murdoch. These are rather more interesting, and rather disturbing.

Alan Rusbridger reads Andrew Neil

Books
G2 page 7

Guardian Crossword No 20,792
Set by Quantum

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9							
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16	17		18		19		
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26					27		

Across

- Leverage duke obtained at some cost (5)
- Fish? Children after a number (5)
- Carried out before play starts or instrument is accepted? (5,10)
- Neat cut (4)
- The French in house muddle are likely to sleep rough (8)
- With which you can see it won't hold up much (5,4)
- Greek character's article cheers (5)
- Ben is being trained to be a playwright (5)
- Being exposed, affected by grilling? (9)
- English church rooms prepared for aimless wanderers (8)
- Part of creeper coming back is seen in fencing (4)
- Assumed Yate has front garden cultivated (5,3,7)
- Don't remember time off in form? (5)
- Where cups are placed by the team committee? (9)

Down

- Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 333 222. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm, and 40p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS
- It's under depression (8)
- Grit not in compost decomposing (7)
- The fence's sunken. Exclamation of surprise? (2-2)
- Girl's present, we hear, moved to rapture (4)
- Arrangement in which money left is distributed in department (10)
- Sporting profiteer's a card having a drink round University (8,4)
- Strange native (English) showing ingenuosness (7)
- Worker to endure an acrobatic feat (9)
- Brownish-grey fowl for

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,791

example reared in Wiltshire (10)
13 Fault-finding, serious NCO upset (10)
14 Short literary tome (new edition) provided recurring theme (8)
17 Place one in awkward position at the table? (7)
19 Peter's coming up with hard hat askew obtained from tar (7)
22 After losing top, repaired, brought to a close (5)
23 Artist nearly set up, old (4)
24 City doctor and writer (4)
Solution tomorrow

Friday October 24 1996

With Europe

Parent

Friday

Top tax

'Ghostbuster' wa holidays and a pe

Ben Atkinson

Inside

09/10/96